



CRAWFORD COUNTY AVALANCHE



Soccer 1B

Thursday, April 22, 2004

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745th returns this week, 507th placed on alert

by Kevin Hardy
Capital News Service

Lansing - The 507th Engineer Battalion based at Camp Grayling has been put on alert, increasing the possibility it might be sent to Iraq, according to Department of Military and Veterans Affairs officials.

"What we are speculating is that they will be called up in rotation No. 3 in Iraq," Capt. Dawn Dancer said. "I'm making a huge speculation."

The battalion, part of the Michigan National Guard, was placed on alert late last week. It is unknown how many soldiers would be called up.

Dancer said other Michigan National Guard units have been put on alert for as long as six months since Operation Iraqi Freedom began more than a year ago but didn't go on active duty.

"This could all go away," Dancer said.

If called up, the 507th Engineer Battalion would be the fifth Michigan Army National Guard unit activated from Camp Grayling. The others are the 1438th Engineer Detachment, 1439th and 1440th engineer teams as well as the 745th Ordnance Detachment, which is

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See "745TH RETURNS..."

Pennies from heaven



Photo by Cheryl Ruley

Experience Works employee Bev Fetting has begun an effort to get the children of the community, like 3-1/2 year old Anna Trinkle, involved in meeting a recent challenge made by library benefactor Leslie Devereaux by donating their pennies for the Crawford County Library's children's reading program. For more, see Page 3A.

County approves placing 911, library funding on ballot

by Cheryl Ruley
Staff Writer

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners voted 6-0 with one absent on April 13 to place funding proposals for 911 Dispatch and the library system on the August primary election ballot.

The 911 Dispatch proposal, if passed, would continue the current telephone surcharge approved by the voters back in 2000. Since that time, Dispatch has been able to operate without funding from the county and its municipalities, with the exception of some equipment expenditures.

Dispatch received a total of \$4,450 this year from the townships, city of Grayling and county, plus another \$2,700 from Camp Grayling for their access to the law enforcement network. It also received about \$72,000 from a cellular telephone surcharge collected by the state. The lion's share of 911 Dispatch's current budget, \$367,560, is received from the existing surcharge.

Residents and businesses owners in Crawford County can locate the surcharge on their monthly telephone bills. Its current rate is 17 percent of a customer's basic phone rate and does not include long distance or other telephone services.

"Without the continuation of

the telephone surcharge the county would have to again look at other ways to fund 911 Dispatch, including contracting or combining with another county," said Larry Akers, Dispatch Director.

Akers said the voters will be asked to approve the same surcharge proposal for at least another four years. A committee to promote the 911 campaign will meet Wednesday, April 28 at 6 p.m. at the courthouse in Grayling. Anyone who would like to assist with the campaign or would like more information about 911 Dispatch operations is asked to attend or contact Akers at 348-6821.

The Commissioners also approved the Library Board's request to place an operating millage of .45 mills on the August ballot.

On Saturday morning, County Treasurer Joe Wakeley met with the Friends of the Crawford County Libraries and explained the costs and revenues involved with operating the entire library system which includes the Devereaux Memorial Crawford County Library in Grayling and branches in Frederic, Lovells and Beaver Creek Townships.

Wakeley told the Friends that although the library has funds in reserve, recent drops in penal

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See "COUNTY..."

This is only a test

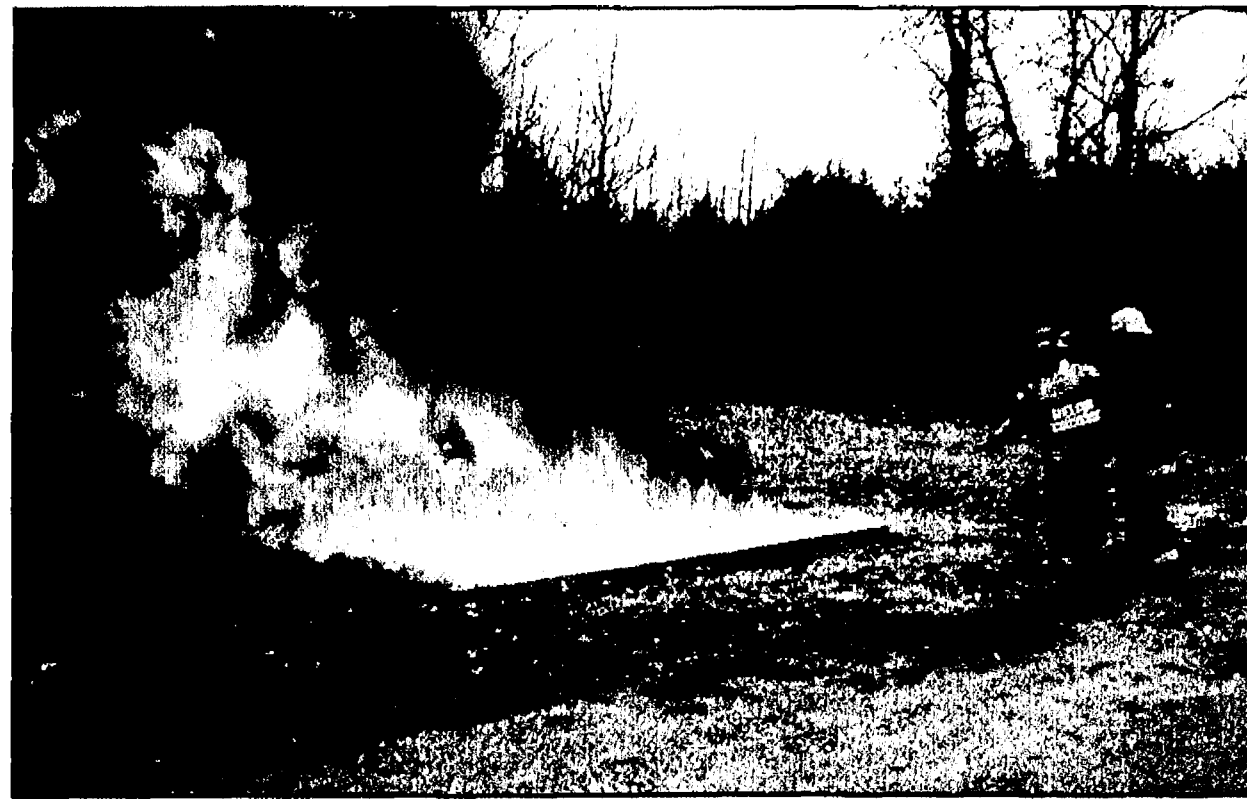


Photo courtesy of Beaver Creek Township Fire Department

All but one fire department serving Crawford County was represented last Saturday, April 17 for a day-long fire fighting training session, hosted by the Beaver Creek Township Fire Department. With the wildfire season upon us, the training helps refresh skills in fire suppression through different methods designed specifically to fight many types of fires, including structure and wild-fires.

High winds leave many without power

High winds and thunderstorms that moved into the area Sunday left over 1,000 Great Lakes Energy customers without power into the morning on Monday, April 19.

Most Great Lakes Energy customers without power on Monday morning were located in Crawford, Emmet, Osceola,

Lake and Mason Counties.

The power company's officials estimate that over 10,000 customers were without power at various times since Sunday afternoon when damaging high winds and thunderstorms moved across parts of central and northern Michigan.

Lines damaged by fallen trees

were repaired by crews allowing power to be restored in other areas that included parts of Charlevoix, Antrim, Otsego, Newaygo, Oceana, and Kalkaska counties. Crews continued to work Monday morning through more windy conditions and expected to get all customers back into service the same day.

Crawford's first-ever Amber Alert ends happily

by Cheryl Ruley
Staff Writer

When 10-year old Jack Myers could not be found near Grayling Elementary School, nor near his home on April 14, Crawford County 911 Dispatch issued the area's first-ever Amber Alert.

Sheriff Kirk Wakefield said the Amber Alert was issued at 3:30 p.m. due to the suspicious nature of the situation, but provided no additional information.

In a matter of minutes Sheriff's Deputies and Grayling City Police Officers began to search for the boy and was soon aided by Department of Natural Resources Law Officers, as well as Troopers from the Michigan State Police.

Local news channels broadcasted information about Jack and aired a photograph, asking for help from anyone who may have seen the boy after school. Teachers, school staff and other members of the community also came forward to help find Jack.

At approximately 6:20 p.m., members of the Grayling City and Township Fire Department were called to their station to begin efforts to form a search party, but that effort was called

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See "CRAWFORD'S..."

Friends to host 'Art and Treasures' auction

by Cheryl Ruley
Staff Writer

The Friends of the Crawford County Libraries will host "Love Your Library Art and Treasure Auction" in June to benefit future events and programs in the library system.

The list of items donated for the auction is long, and includes: a kayak, handcrafted fly rod, sailboat ride and picnic lunch on Lake Charlevoix, handcrafted jewelry, watercolors, prints, oils, pottery, photography, hooked rugs, quilts, stained glass, an antique clock and more.

Tickets for the event may be purchased in advance for \$15 each and include hors d'oeuvres, dessert bar, soft drinks, tea, and coffee. A cash bar will be available. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$17.50 each.

Besides the live auction, a silent auction will also be held and door prizes will be given away.

The Love Your Library Art and Treasures Auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 11 at the Holiday Inn in Grayling. Everyone is encouraged to attend this casual event

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The Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (Michigan Army National Guard) announced April 22 the availability of the Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for the Proposed Land Use Agreement at the Camp Grayling Maneuver Training Center (Camp Grayling), Michigan.

This land use agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) would allow military units to maintain a high level of training and state readiness to support national defense and state missions such as natural disaster, civil unrest and other emergencies. The land use agreement would also maximize training opportunities and promote efficient scheduling of ranges for military units that use Camp Grayling.

The Proposed Action extends the agreement and contains a modification to allow firing of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) on state lands located southwest of the City of Grayling in Kalkaska and Crawford Counties.

After receipt of public comments relating to safety and noise concerns, the decision to fire the MLRS on agreement lands has been postponed and the alternative to Extend the Current Management Agreement to 2014 with No Modifications has been selected.

An analysis of the environmental impacts of these proposed actions is presented in a FEA, now available for public review and comment.

Copies may be reviewed at the Camp Grayling Environmental Office, Building 30, Camp Grayling, MI 49739, during normal business hours and at the Crawford County Library, 201 Plum St., Grayling, MI 49738. Library hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday - Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday.

This assessment will be available for review for 15 days from April 22 to May 7, 2004. Written public comment concerning this proposal is invited.

Comments must be received no later than May 7, 2004 and addressed to Michigan Army National Guard, Attention: CPT Dancer, Public Affairs Officer, 2500 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48913.

Economic development group looking for board members

The Crawford County Economic Development Partnership (EDP) began its work in January, defining tasks that must be accomplished to lead toward the formation of an economic development corporation and hiring a full-time economic development staff person.

The mission of the Crawford County EDP is "to encourage and support the retention and expansion of existing business, to attract new business and industry, to improve quality of life, and to protect our natural resources while maintaining a small town atmosphere."

The committee's tasks include: development of a mission, vision, organization structure and bylaws, 501(c)3 non-profit and State of Michigan non-profit corporation applications, development of budget, communication and fund raising plans, as well as tasks that

lead to hiring of a staff person. The Steering Committee is now ready to seek applicants for new Board membership on the private/public non-profit Crawford County EDP Board. Regular meetings of the Board will be held, minimally, 10 times per year. Board member terms will be three years.

Applicants must fall into one of the following categories: 1) resident of Crawford County; 2) operate a business in Crawford County; or 3) are employed by an employer/business that operates or does business within Crawford County.

Anyone interested in further exploration of Board membership, send or e-mail your resume with cover letter by April 30, 2004 to: Stephanie Riemer-Matuszak, CCEDC, P.O. Box 141, Grayling, MI 49738 or e-mail: ecogrowth@i2k.net.com.

by Susan Warrington
Staff Writer

The dedication ceremony for Grayling High School will be held Sunday, May 2, at 2 p.m. in the newly remodeled auditorium.

Two areas of the building will be dedicated and the auditorium will be re-dedicated in honor of Joseph H. Stripe.

In addition to the dedications, the first 17 inductees into the Grayling High School Alumni

Grayling High School Alumni Hall of Fame will be honored. Inductees will be honored for receiving an advanced degree in their field, such as a Ph.D.,

M.D., etc. or for a significant life achievement, honor, or award, or for a significant contribution toward improving the lives of others.

Superintendent Milli Haug asks the community to come and "celebrate what they've done" since 'passing the millage on March 20, 2001.

Music will be provided by various groups of band and chorus members.

Light refreshments and tours of the school will follow the brief ceremony.

Continued from Page 1A

is expected to arrive back from active duty by Friday, April 23.

Camp Grayling's 745th Ordnance Detachment has been on active duty the longest. It left December 2, 2002, for Fort Hood in Texas and has been in Iraq since October 18, 2003.

There are more than 1,600 Michigan Army and Air National Guard soldiers and airmen serving in Iraq, Kuwait, Guantanamo Bay and other U.S. and foreign locations.

Recently, the 136-member 1460th Transportation Company of Midland returned from active duty in Kuwait.

Continued from Page 1A

off when Jack was found, safe and unharmed, at a friend's home in the city of Grayling.

In a statement to the *Avalanche*, the Myers family recognized the outpouring of help from all segments of the community. "They gave us a feeling of hope and comfort in our time of need. It also gave us a special feeling that we belong to a community that cares about our family and was there until we found our son. It is impossible to measure the amount of gratitude we feel towards all."

Continued from Page 1A

and support the county's four libraries.

To reserve tickets, send name, address and phone number along with a check or money order for the appropriate amount to: Friends of CC Libraries, 201 Plum Street, Grayling, MI 49738. Reserved tickets will be held at the door, unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is included with the order.

Continued from Page 1A

finances and other state revenues has forced the Library Board to dip into the reserves.

He forecasts those reserves to run out within three years and recommended the Library Board seek approval of a small operating millage from the voters to prevent the library from cutting services, cutting hours, laying off employees or eventually closing its doors.

Wakeley advised against using any of the \$196,000 left in construction funds for anything other than maintaining the existing buildings or for equipment.

Friends of the Library voted Saturday to support the proposed operating millage and voted to give a recently donated large amount of books to the campaign committee in order to raise funds for the millage campaign.

A library millage campaign committee is forming. For more information, contact Friends of the Library President, Alice Sturm, at 348-1554, weeknights and weekends.



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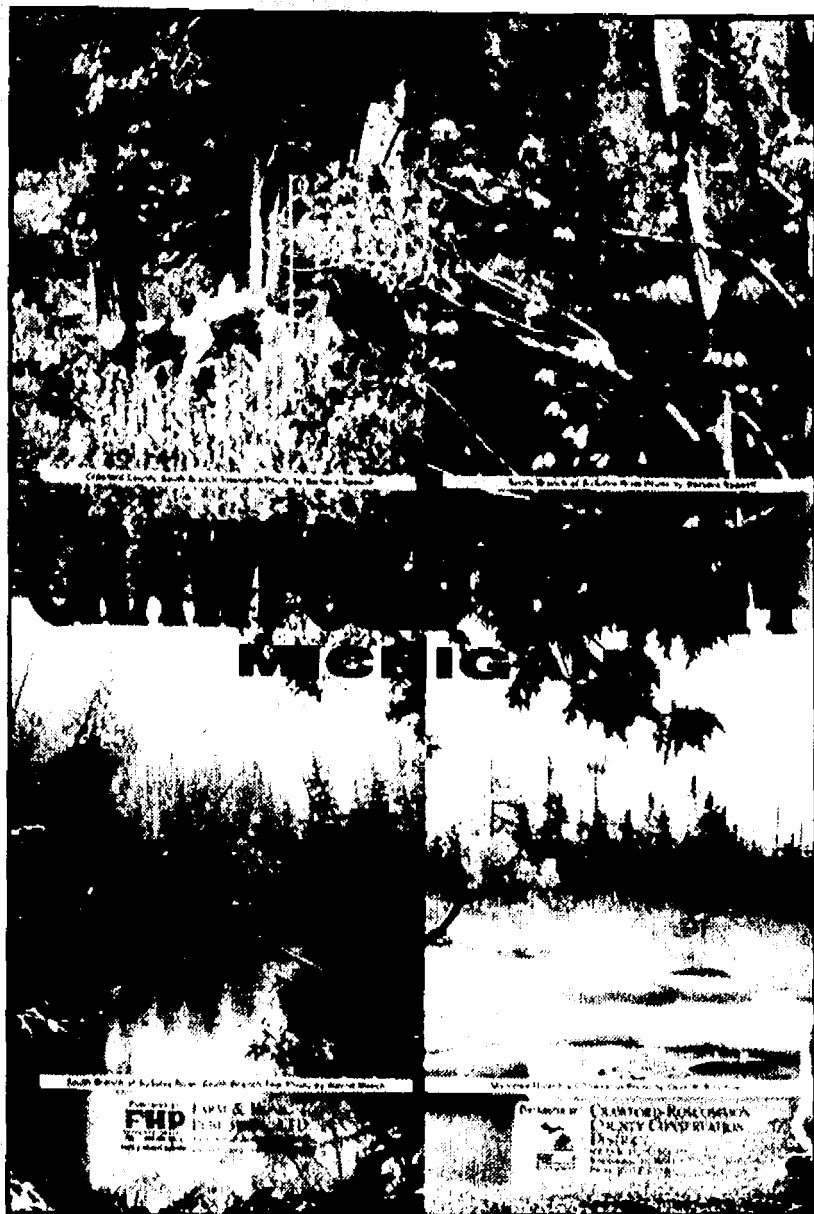
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New Crawford County plat books are in



The newly published 2004 Crawford County Plat Book is now available at the Crawford County Clerk's office, 200 West Michigan Avenue in Grayling, and the Crawford-Roscommon Conservation District, 606 Lake Street in the village of Roscommon. Cost is \$25.

Pennies from heaven

by Cheryl Ruley
Staff Writer

Not only does Experience Works participant Beverly "Bev" Fetting serve library patrons with great kindness, but she recognizes and supports the "Giving the Gift of Reading" program as well.

Fetting, who moved to Grayling from Owosso in 1979, has been working for the Crawford County Library system for five years as a participant of the state's Green Thumb program, now called Experience Works.

Her original task of updating the genealogy section of the library has merged into helping in other areas, including working at the circulation desk of the Devereaux Memorial Crawford County Library.

The idea of getting local children involved in meeting the recent match challenge of \$3,500 from library benefactor Leslie Devereaux came to her one day last week.

"I had all these pennies at home," she said, "and I thought what if everyone got their pennies together and donated them, then we could help meet the challenge. Every little penny counts."

So, Fetting has donated her collection of pennies and asks children of all ages — including teens, adults, and senior citizens — to do the same.

"It is important for our com-

munity to realize this library and its variety of programs is for all of the citizens," Library Director Bambi Mansfield said. "It is refreshing to watch as the community rises to the challenge. To have someone like Bev involving the little ones in raising matching funds just shows how diverse and supportive this community can be."

Also, answering Devereaux's challenge last week was the Grayling Youth Booster Club, whose Board of Directors is now challenging other organizations and businesses to join them in supporting the children's reading programs.

Donations of any amount to help meet the challenge are being accepted at the Devereaux Memorial Crawford County Library, 201 Plum Street in Grayling. For more information, call Mansfield at (989) 348-9214.

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Mt. Hope Lutheran Church
Sunday, April 25
4:00 P.M.

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15th annual Tri-Lakes home show to be held this weekend

The Tri-Lakes 15th Annual Home Show will take place this weekend, April 24-25, at Houghton Lake High School on M-55 in Houghton Lake.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Cost of admission is \$3 for adults and those funds will be used to toward three \$1,000 scholarships for students who will be continuing their education in the building industry: construction, drafting, engineer-

ing, design, architecture, decorating.

Exhibitors include: builders, log homes, windows, doors, mirrors, siding, lumber companies, concrete products, heating/cooling, banks/mortgage companies, interior design, furniture/carpet, water treatment, insurance, real estate, fireplaces, sun rooms, gutters and many more.

A drawing will be held for two \$150 Shopping Sprees, with many exhibitors holding their own drawings.

Mineau the Clown will be on hand both days to entertain the kids.

Anyone with a question about design, materials, choosing a builder, etc. is invited to come to the Home Show and "Ask the Panel." Builders and suppliers will be available to answer questions both days, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Home Builders Association. Find Tri-Lakes on line at: www.tl-hba.org.

Fish Hatchery fundraiser underway

by Susan Warrington
Staff Writer

In an effort to restore the fish hatchery building, the Grayling Fish Hatchery Restoration Steering Committee now has raffle tickets available as part of their fundraising campaign.

The committee has successfully overseen the restoration of the raceways and grounds, including many improvements such as the storm water retention pond and the children's fishing ponds.

Its major project now is the restoration of the hatchery building, which is likely to collapse

within the next few years unless major restoration work is done soon.

The raffle offers several prizes including a Tonkin cane fly rod by Bob Summers, a float trip and night's lodging at Fuller's North Branch Outing Club, a hand-

carved grayling decoy, a Solitude fly reel and a quilt.

The drawing will be held during canoe marathon weekend.

Tickets may be purchased at The Bloomin' Grape 303 James St. or by calling (989) 348-9005.

COA search nearly over

by Susan Warrington
Staff Writer

After spending many hours looking over the resumes of serious candidates for the director of the Crawford County Commission on Aging (COA), the board began a series of interviews with their top seven choices on April 12 when they interviewed four of the candidates.

On April 19, they interviewed the remaining three candidates. At the conclusion of the interviews the board members were asked to rank order their choices.

Since nearly every board member made the same selection for their number one candidate, the board contacted the person on April 19 with their offer. At press time, they were waiting to hear if their offer was accepted.



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OPINIONS



ALMANACK

by Richard Milliman

Presidential press conference not the real thing

WHEN PRESIDENT George Bush met assembled Washington reporters a week or so ago, it was only the third time in his three-plus years as president that he has held a full scaled, prime time, all-network press conference.

I'm still not sure what went on at the White House that night, but what was presented on national television was not really a national press conference in the traditional sense.

There was an antiseptic feel about this session. It really was too well organized and too well controlled.

Reporters sat sedately until called upon, and were polite even when posing embarrassing questions. Names of reporters were on a list at the President's side, and he seemed to recognize them in some sort of pre-arranged order.

Most questions were mediocre at best, and you had to wonder if they had been cleared in advance, too.

* * *

PRESIDENT BUSH opened with an 18 minute statement explaining his take on the nation's battle with terrorism and the war in Iraq.

He went into some detail about what he sees as the need and the purposes for the Iraq war, and why we are there. He outlined a schedule for turning things over to Iraqis.

Then he took about 15 questions from that handy list of White House media folks, most of them from the electronic side of the media.

It was all very orderly, quiet and sedate, although many of the questions seemed designed to embarrass the President.

Was he going to apologize for those who have died in the war, or others who died in terrorist attacks? What would he do differently if given the chance? What mistakes, if any, has he made as president?

No matter what the question, Mr.

Bush went back to his opening monologue, and framed his reply to fit within his previously stated positions, using different phrases perhaps, but plowing no new ground. Any news from the press conference came out of the President's opening statement, which confirmed his resolve to stay in Iraq, and his vow to continue to pursue terrorists.

The reporter's questions produced no blockbusters.

* * *

MEDIA REACTION - to the presidential press conference depended on the originating points of view.

Most liberal-bent columnist or commentators condemned Mr. Bush for being evasive, and criticized his war policies.

Most of a conservative bent applauded the president for being staunch in his mission as he sees it.

As for most Americans, the public couldn't care less. In fact, many televi-

sion viewers hollered because the president's appearance bumped their favorite shows off the air.

Unhappy fans of "American Idol," for example, reportedly flooded network switchboards with complaints. For those who may have missed "Idol" when it was aired out of order the following night, here's what happened: The young and swinging singer-dancer called JPL was booted off the show that week.

* * *

FOR AN OLD political reporter such as this one, the press conference was disappointing for all the reasons stated above. The president talked too long in the opener, didn't take enough questions, and was evasive when he did reply.

But for an old political advisor and former press secretary such as this one, Mr. Bush performed admirably. He got out the message he wanted to deliver, and stayed with it. He mastered the art of ignoring unwanted questions and saying

what he wanted to say, or turning the question back into the mainstream of his message.

The Bush press conference was nothing like those at the "West Wing" White House. No reporters were jumping up and down, crying for recognition. No snappy repartee between the principal and the press. No "stop the presses" exclusives.

For the nation, nothing was gained by this prime time all-network press conference, but it did provide columnists and editorial writers with plenty of between-the-lines fodder for their own reactive offerings -- and that's about all.

Richard Milliman is a veteran newspaperman, and a contributing columnist to several Michigan newspapers.

VIEWPOINT

by Sharon Huss, Director, Crawford County Victims Services

Victims of crime are not just someone else

This April, we share an important opportunity to promote our shared values for Victims' Rights and Victim Assistance/Safety in our homes, schools and communities; ensuring that crime victims' rights are implemented throughout our criminal and juvenile justice systems; and making sure that victims' voices are consistently heard throughout our systems of justice and our nation as a whole.

"But I'll never be a victim of crime! Crime is something that happens to someone else. Crime is certainly a societal problem, but not one that affects me, personally." If these statements were only true! The reality is that most peo-

ple will be a victim of or witness to a crime in their lifetime.

April 18-24 marks the 24th commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. For seven days, victim service providers, justice professionals and others seek to promote greater public awareness about a serious problem that affects not only our nation, but our community 365 days a year.

We appreciate the opportunity to have a serious dialogue about victims of crime and the impact on us as individuals, and the community as a whole.

The economic impact of crime is devastating in itself, resulting in significant damage to victims' abilities to focus, function and work. The psychological impact may be more difficult to measure but is no less devastating.

Many victims never report crime

because of trauma and fear. For those who do report crimes, we have much work to do to validate the harm they have endured, their voices and concerns, and their statutory rights as victims.

And the physical impact results in people whose lives are irrevocably changed -- the robbery victim who is left a paraplegic, the family whose breadwinner is murdered, the battered woman who hides her bruises in hopes of hiding her chronic suffering, and the child abuse victims who listen closely to the threats of their abusers and never disclose their victimization.

Victims and survivors of crimes have simple, basic needs. They need to feel safe in reporting the crimes committed against them. They need consistent implementation of their core rights to information and notification, protection,

participation, and restitution. And they need to be assured that they are not responsible for what happened, and that the persons who hurt them will be held accountable and brought to justice.

When we take time to identify and meet the needs of victims and survivors of crime, we commit to our shared values for justice in America:

1. When you value our right to live in peace in our homes, neighborhoods and communities, you value victims' rights and services.
2. When you value our children and their hopes for a life of opportunity that is free from violence, you value victims' rights and services.
3. When you value justice for all people who live in our nation and community, you value victims' rights and services.

WASHINGTON NOTES

by U.S. Senator Carl Levin (D-MI)

Senator shares lessons from Iraq

I recently returned from my second trip to Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein. During both visits, I was overwhelmed by the dedication and commitment of the U.S. servicemen and women. We owe them our material support and our prayers for their success and their safe return. We also owe it to them to learn from the mistakes we made before going to war.

The intelligence failures with respect to Iraq were massive and have damaged our credibility around the world. The administration cited the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the imminent threat presented by these weapons as the reasons for going to war. It is astonishing that our intelligence could have been so far

off the mark. This question is the subject of ongoing congressional investigations, which hopefully will lead to some corrective action. But intelligence failures were not our only mistakes.

Prior to the war, I argued against attacking Iraq in the absence of an imminent threat to our own security, unless we could enlist the support of the international community. I thought we had a better chance of forcing Saddam to comply with the U.N. resolutions if he clearly understood that he was facing the world community rather than just Western powers. And we had opportunities to forge such a coalition: when the U.N. weapons inspectors returned to Iraq in November of 2002 to oversee the disarmament process, it clearly was the international community working to disarm and contain Saddam.

We abandoned this unity, however, when we dismissed the ongoing work by the weapons inspectors and initiated military action without U.N. support. This action, along with the administration's "you're with us or you're against us" rhetoric, cost us the support of many of our allies and much of the world, and has made it difficult to obtain the cooperation of the world community in the post-war reconstruction. We are still paying the price for acting unilaterally.

We need to learn from our mistakes. Instead, we may be on the verge of repeating the mistake we made when we initiated hostilities against Iraq: failing to take the necessary time to attempt to secure international support through the U.N.

The Administration is determined to end our status as the occupying power in Iraq and to restore a sovereign Iraq to an interim caretaker government on June 30.

If we fail to end our status as an occupying power on this date, there could be serious consequences, since most Iraqis view the establishment of a sovereign Iraqi government as restoring their dignity and control over their country. But if we restore sovereignty to a U.S.-created entity that doesn't have the support of the Iraqi people and the international community, there could be even greater violence against U.S. and coalition forces and innocent Iraqi civilians. Indeed, civil war might result.

In order to establish a successful Iraqi government, we face a number of daunting security and political challenges in the weeks and months ahead: improving the security environment; helping to design the interim government to which sovereignty will be restored

that is considered legitimate by Iraqis and the rest of the world; and making the U.N. a true partner in this process.

It is essential that we enlist the support of the international community and the U.N. in fashioning an interim government in Iraq. United Nations involvement will provide legitimacy inside Iraq and in many parts of the world, and will open the door to troops, police officers and reconstruction funds from other countries. It could even open the door to NATO involvement.

We should consult with others on the wisdom of maintaining the June 30 deadline. Doing so could be a real turning point in the way the world views us, regardless of the outcome of the discussions. It would demonstrate our recognition that, while we have most of the world's military power, others have much to contribute to solving the conundrum of Iraq.

Even if we act to include the United Nation in the creation of a new Iraqi government, the challenges are huge and success far from assured, as the act of restoring sovereignty in and of itself will not end the violence against U.S. and Coalition forces and innocent civilians. But without the involvement and support of the United Nations, the restoration of a sovereign Iraqi government, particularly one created by the U.S. and established on a U.S. self-imposed arbitrary date, is not likely to be a new dawn for Iraq, but deepening darkness.

We have a hope of succeeding if we learn from our past mistakes and pull together to make the hard choices.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan.

EDITOR

DNR tree-cutting out of control

To the editor,

When is clear-cutting in our northern Michigan counties going to stop? When is any replanting going to start?

I have asked myself many times, but a recent drive through our county and neighboring ones has prompted me to voice my opinion.

I am a local business owner and resident, so my concern is two-fold.

We moved here three years ago for the beauty of the area, but we are seeing the beauty diminish quickly. We also moved here to revive a business, but have concerns about its future.

Businesses in northern Michigan rely on tourism as an important source of our livelihood. People come to the area to fish, hunt, snowmobile, see the fall colors and simply to enjoy the beauty.

Leaving Grayling and heading out M72 Highway East to their cabins or their favorite fishing spot, these tourists get to view the "beauty" along M72, clear-

cut, with a sign that's been there for nearly a year, stating "Future Home of the Kirtland's Warbler." How important is this one bird to our ecology and/or our local economy?

Heading further, northeast toward Lovells and Lewiston, or south toward Roscommon, the beauty of clear-cuts continue.

Take a ride out to the corner of CR489 and North Down River Road (608). One corner is a clear-cut done last year, not replanted, and the other looks like a bomb was dropped on it, as far as you can see!

What is the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) thinking? They say they're concerned about the spread of bovine TB, yet they're forcing deer herds closer together by destroying their habitat.

What is the State of Michigan thinking? Is everything about selling wood? I understand the need for some clear-cuts and select cuts, but what's happening is out of control.

*Shirley Gaff
Grayling*

Booster Club asks all to meet the challenge

To the editor,

The Devereaux family has been extremely generous to our community through our library.

When we read in the April 15, 2004 issue of the *Avalanche* that Leslie Devereaux challenged our community to support the new children's program, "Giving the Gift of Reading," we immediately sent a donation.

In turn, we are challenging other service organizations and businesses to help support the future of our children.

Ms. Devereaux will donate up to \$3,500 in matching funds, making your contribution worth twice as much.

The challenge is on!
Rick Schmidt, President
Grayling Youth Booster Club

It's not luck, it's an eddy

To the editor,

Someone from "down below" once told me I was lucky to live in Grayling, but it's not exactly luck.

Did you ever watch one of those eddies below the dam go round and round? That's it, and

though every now and then a piece drifts away, and every now and then a new one enters, mostly it's just the same old thing -- round and round.

*Richard Slater
Grayling*

The opinions expressed in the letters and columns on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of *The Crawford County Avalanche*.

AVALANCHE
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The Bible Speaks

Preserving Liberty

We are today involved in our First World War of the 21st century to preserve freedom and liberty. The U. S. State Department first named this war "Infinite Justice" then because of criticism changed the name to "Enduring Freedom." Truth must be known and loved by all Americans if we are to win this war. As James Madison known as the father of our U.S. Constitution said, "A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." "A lady asked Dr. Franklin Well, 'Doctor what have we got a republic or a monarchy?' -- 'A republic,' replied the Doctor, 'if you can keep it.'" But our Republic has been rapidly degenerating into a Democracy.

Like ancient Rome, America's greatest threat to freedom and liberty comes not from foreign enemies, but from within. Madison reminded us that our country was founded upon the liberty that comes when each individual is self-governed under the 10 commandments of God. Infinite Justice in America was intended by our founding fathers to be preserved by our individual submission to the divine laws of God and our collective submission to the highest law of our nation the U.S. Constitution. Our Infinite Justice is threatened today as both God's law and the U.S. Constitution are under attack. Judicial efforts are underway to remove not only God's law, but even any mention of God from the public arena. At the same time judicial efforts are underway to replace the U.S.

Constitution with international law as the new and progressive standard for justice in the 21st century.

You have often heard that those who do not learn from history are bound to repeat it. Plato's Republic written nearly 2,500 years ago gives Americans some shocking insight into where we are headed today in America. Quoting the teachings of Socrates he described the development and fall of different systems of government including Democracy.

Plato said when democracy fails it turns into a dictatorship. Plato said, "Now insatiability for what democracy defines as the good also destroys it. Plato said our liberty brings about self-destruction because we neglect other essential things. But Plato admits this is the best government to live under. He said, "Liberty, I said. This is what you would hear in a democracy is its finest possession and that this is the reason why it is the only city worth living in for a man who is by nature free." That too is very often said.

Plato gave us some warning signs in the degeneration of a democracy. He said, "It abuses those who obey the rulers as willing slaves and of no account, but it praises and honours, both in public and in private, rulers who behave like subjects and subjects who behave like rulers. Must not such a city reach the extreme of liberty?" "Of Course," He said, "a father will accuse himself to behave like a child and to fear his sons, while the son behaves like a father, and feels neither shame or fear before his parents, in order to be free." He said, "A resident alien, is the equal of a citizen and a citizen the equal of a resident alien, and so too a foreign visitor. That is what happens." He said, "A teacher in such a community is afraid of his pupils and

flatters them, while the pupils think little of their teachers." He said, "Altogether the young are thought to be the equals of the old and compete with them in word and deed, while the old accommodate themselves to the young." Plato also added, "And I almost forgot to mention what great equality exists between women and men."

Plato even described how animals are liberated in democracy. He said, "No one who has not experienced it would believe how much freer the animals who serve man are here than anywhere else. As the proverbs said, dogs are literally the equals of their mistresses, and indeed so are horses and donkeys." He said if they don't get out of their way animals are free and proud to bump into people in the streets. He concluded, "everything else too is full of liberty." But Plato warned us 2,500 years ago that such extreme sensitivity and permissiveness in our quest for liberty threatens to lead us into "excessive servitude" and "dictatorship."

Pastor "B" Please pray for God's blessings upon the ministry of this column and our church Website at <http://www.i2k.net/~cha>. We at Calvary Baptist Church invite you to learn more from the Bible about Jesus Christ. Join us in a verse by verse study of the gospel of John each Sunday.

(Though America was founded as a Republic and not a Democracy, we are rapidly degenerating into a failing Democracy.)

"The Bible Speaks" is a paid advertisement and does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Crawford County Avalanche.

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OBITUARIES

Gregory James Morrill
Oct. 30, 1964 - April 16, 2004
Gregory James Morrill, age 39 of Grayling, formerly of Cookeville TN, died Friday, April 16, 2004.

Mr. Morrill was born October 30, 1964 in Grayling. He was sales manager at Jeld-Wen of Sparta, TN.

He enjoyed spending time with his daughter, Ashley Nichole.

Mr. Morrill was an avid NASCAR racing fan, especially following the career of Dale Earnhart. He also enjoyed golfing.

He was preceded in death by grandparents Robert and Madonna LaMotte and Forrest and Erma Reichelderfer.

He is survived by his daughter Ashley Nichole Morrill of Cookeville, TN; his mother Kay Ann Morrill of Grayling; his father Fred (Martie) Reichelderfer; two sisters Heidi (Darrell) Larm of Grayling and Nichole Smith of Columbia, TN; three brothers Rob Morrill of Grayling, Dave (Jeanne) Reichelderfer and Paul Reichelderfer; two nieces Gabrielle Dru Larm and Nicole Larm; four nephews Gregory Robert Morrill, Trent James Larm, Zackery Paul Smith, and Brad Larm and fiancée Brooke Ginther. He is the nephew of Robert (DeeAnn) LaMotte of Powell, TN.

Visitation was held on Monday, April 19 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 20 at 11 a.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church with Rev. Elizabeth Chace officiating.

Arrangements by the Sorenson Funeral Home McEvers Chapel, Grayling.

Henry Harry Daneluk
Oct. 20, 1925 - April 15, 2004
Henry Harry Daneluk, age 78 of Lewiston, died Thursday, April 15, 2004.

Mr. Daneluk was born October 20, 1925 in Ravenna, Ohio. He was raised in Detroit and worked as a carpenter in the Detroit area, retiring in 1997. He was a member of the Detroit Carpenters Union Local 118.

He served overseas in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Mr. Daneluk moved to Lewiston in 1999, and enjoyed bowling and working in his garden. He was preceded in death by his wife Helen M. (Burylo) Daneluk.

He is survived by his children Ricky (Betty) Daneluk of Frederic, Susan (Don) Duda of Novi, Daniel (Linda) Daneluk of Redford, and Gary Daneluk (Tamara Harwood) of Lovells; grandchildren Aaron Daneluk of Gaylord, Cynthia (Chad) Brown of Frederic, Bradley Daneluk of Frederic, Christina Daneluk of Frederic, Steven Duda of Novi, Lauren Duda of Novi, Shannon Daneluk of Redford, Jason Daneluk of Redford; Keith Daneluk, Patrick Daneluk and Jeffrey Harwood of Grayling; Danielle Harwood of Lovells; and great grandchildren Nicholas and Dominick Daneluk of Frederic.

Memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, April 24 at the Sajewski Funeral Home in Detroit, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made in Mr. Daneluk's name to Hospice of Michigan through Nelson Funeral Home, P.O. Box 1548, Gaylord, MI 49734.

Arrangements by Nelson Funeral Home, Gaylord.

Ryan James "Noochie" Gnatkowski

Dec. 5, 1978 - April 12, 2004

Ryan James "Noochie" Gnatkowski, age 25 of Higgins Lake, died Monday, April 12, 2004.

Funeral services were held at Walsh Funeral Home on Thursday, April 15.

Arrangements by Walsh Funeral Home, Roscommon.

John Joseph Ryan
Aug. 29, 1975 - Mar. 22, 2004
"Johnny" Ryan, 28, was taken from us unexpectedly on March 22, 2004. He died at Grayling Mercy Hospital.

He was born to Peggy Kay Stocker and William Frederick Ryan I.

He is survived by longtime companion, Jill Beebe and children: Zowie, Syllis and Malachi.

He is also survived by his mother, Peggy Kay (Dave) Hunkele; one sister, Jackie Ryan; his two nieces, Kayla and Anne; one brother, Billy Ryan and his nephew, Willie; aunts, uncles, many cousins and many friends who will deeply miss him.

"Boo John" loved to poke and prod, he was forever trying to scare you, or buzzing in your ear. He spoke of a "crumb" and that story will be told on. He enjoyed playing "the game" and listening to music, "his music." He loved the Three Stooges and hanging out with the younger generations.

Johnny was special in so many ways. Children could sense it right away. Children loved Johnny from the word "go" because they could see his heart, whereas an adult most times couldn't get past his exterior to see the real Johnny Ryan.

He was a soul who touched a lot of people profoundly throughout his short life, but we probably didn't realize it until now. John will always be with us in our hearts. Johnny is so deeply missed by the "best friends," the ones like brothers. He will forever be remembered as the quiet one to some - outspoken to others - and an all-around good, free-spirited person.

He joined his dad and our Memere with this passing.

A memorial service was held March 25, 2004 at the Burning Bush Tabernacle, with Pastor Patricia Petrie officiating.

Arrangements by Sorenson Funeral Home, McEvers Chapel, Grayling.

Lyle Douglas Billsby

Mar. 24, 1917 - April 16, 2004

Lyle Douglas Billsby, age 87 of Grayling, died at home Friday, April 16, 2004.

Mr. Billsby was born March 24, 1917 in Alma, the son of Earl and Elizabeth (Campbell) Billsby. He married the former Rowena M. Howe on August 30, 1940 in Saginaw.

Mr. Billsby served his country in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Upon his return home from military service, he resumed his employment with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission in Grayling, where he worked until his retirement in 1979 as manager.

He enjoyed canoeing and bowling. He was a member of the American Legion Post #106 in Grayling where he previously served as Post Commander.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters.

He is survived by his wife Rowena; one son Doug (Ruth) Billsby of Kalkaska; and grandchildren Kristy Billsby of Kalkaska and Scott Billsby of Tempe, AZ; four sisters and two brothers.

Visitation was held on Sunday, April 18 from noon to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Funeral services were held Monday, April 19 at 11 a.m. at the Sorenson Funeral Home with Reverend Jeffrey Jagers officiating.

Military rites were accorded by American Legion Post #106 and members of the Michigan National Guard provided military honors. Arrangements by the Sorenson Funeral Home McEvers Chapel, Grayling.

Nancy Ann Beckman

June 16, 1930 - April 16, 2004

Nancy Ann Beckman, age 73 died Friday, April 16, 2004 at Mercy Manor in Grayling.

Private family services will take place. Arrangements by Sorenson Funeral Home, McEvers Chapel, Grayling.

SETTING THE EXAMPLE

"I wonder why that dad in front of me just waved in the road. Let me see! Could there be something on a turtle? I'm glad I didn't hit the poor little thing. I would have felt so sad." In some instances a good example can make a great difference. As children, we learn by the example of those closest to us. As we grow, we live and interact with our peers according to those observations. Our future is already greatly influenced while we are still young children. We need to show them 12:15 and 12:34 as the Lord instructs, "For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you...love one another, even as I have loved you. Wouldn't you like to ensure a better life for yourselves, your children, and the next generation? True 2:7 instructs 'show yourself in all respects a model of good deeds.' You can begin setting the example now. Worship as a family this week."

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

Join us for a meal, either at noon or 5 pm weekdays except Friday, there is no evening meal. Please try to call for reservations at (989) 348-7123 or 1-888-355-4500, so that we know how many to plan for.

The Crawford County Senior Commission on Aging's Senior Center is located at 308 Lawndale, behind Burger King in Grayling. Walk-ins are welcome.

This week's menu (lunch/dinner) and activities:

Thursday, April 22 - Liver and onions/Spanish rice; Aerobics 10

a.m.; Craft Class 10 a.m.; B.P.'s taken 11 a.m. - noon.

Friday, April 23 - Baked fish/no dinner; Lovells Satellite noon; Pantry bingo 1 p.m.; Stagette club 1 p.m.

Monday, April 26 - Salisbury steak/Baked chicken; Aerobics 10 a.m.; Stag Club noon; Bridge Club 1 p.m.; Hangman 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 27 - Hamburger casserole/Pork cutlets; Tenant Council meeting 10 a.m.; Bible Study 10 a.m.; Euchre 1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 28 - Chicken ala king/Beef stew; Exercise & Line Dance 10:00 a.m.; Stag Club 12 noon; Medicine Shoppe bingo 5:30 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays - salad bar; Mondays and Wednesdays - soup bar.

All Crawford County senior citizens and their families are welcome and encouraged to visit the Senior Center in Grayling.

Bingo

Sunday - 1:30 pm
Grayling Eagles
Auxiliary #3465
Eagles Club 402 W. Main
Grayling

Thursday - 6:30 pm
American
Legion Hall
Post 106 - Grayling

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Gray Granite Upright Monument
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Grayling Youth Booster Club
Week ending April 18 - winners of \$25 each: Kim Ruley, Karen Martella, Dennis Henning, Rick Schmidt.

DISTRICT HEALTH #10 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

District Health Department No. 10, Grayling office, has scheduled the following clinics/classes for May. Please call 348-7800 for appointments.

Immunization clinics: May 5 and 19 by appointment.

HIV/AIDS Testing - the Health Department will conduct confidential HIV/AIDS testing by appointment only.

Family planning: May 4 and 18 by appointment.

WIC Supplemental Food Program for pregnant women, infants and children: May 5, 10, 17, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, and 27 by appointment.

OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard Training sessions are scheduled quarterly at the Cadillac office only. Information and appointments can be made by calling (231) 775-9942.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings are available to women ages 40-64 who have limited or no health insurance. A clinic is scheduled May 11 in

Grayling. Call 1-800-968-7300 for an appointment.

Hearing and vision screenings: This is a free program for children ages three to 18. Call the Health Department for an appointment at the May 21 clinic.

Other services are available including:

- Maternal/Infant support - Families Matter;
- Environmental Health (well and septic permits, food service, water testing, etc.);
- Mi Child and Healthy Kids Insurance Programs;
- Health Promotion Programs: such as Smoking Cessation Classes and Abstinence Education; and a variety of health topic presentations by health educators.

The Crawford County branch office of District Health Department #10 is located on Meadows Drive, east of the South I-75 Business Loop, in Grayling. Telephone: (989) 348-7800.

LIBRARY NEWS

Frederic Community Library

Activities scheduled in the near future at the Frederic Community Library are as follows:

On Thursday, May 6 at 4:15 p.m. - Rubber stamping Mother's Day Cards. Sign up at the Frederic library.

On Thursday, May 20 at 4:15 p.m. - Frederic Advisory Board Meeting.

On Saturday, May 22 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Third Annual Plant Exchange will be held.

The Frederic Community Library is open Monday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about the Frederic library and its services, call librarian Sandy Steele at 348-4067.

Devereaux Memorial

Crawford County Library

On Wednesday, April 28 from immediately after school is out until 4:30 p.m. local kids ages seven to 12 years are invited to participate in a "Making Mother's Day Cards" workshop. Be sure to sign up ahead of time at the Devereaux library. Space is limited to 15 and the workshop will be taught by our local Paper Dolls Scrap Booking Club.

On Thursday, May 20 at 7 p.m. a Genealogy meeting will be held.

The Devereaux Memorial Crawford County Library is located at 201 Plum Street in Grayling, next to the AuSable Primary School.

For more information, call library director Bambi Mansfield at 348-9214.

Card of Thanks



Rufus J. Edmonds

Rufus J. Edmonds of Flint, but a resident of Crawford County for over 75 years, celebrated his 97th birthday recently. He is believed to be the oldest living alumnus of Grayling High School, graduating in 1924.

He was born April 9, 1907 in Maple Forest Township, near Siggsbee. The town's name changed to Frederic after the logging days ended.

He was blissfully married to Elvira Jane (Jenks) for over 71 years, losing her in 2001.

They enjoyed many happy traveling days visiting most of the United States and Canada.

Among his happiest days were spent with his family at reunions, on hunting trips, at home and when visiting all the families in

other states.

We love you more each day, Dad.

As one of your children, I wish to thank... Dad and Mom for working so hard to teach with loving understanding and hard work... the values I have today in my life.

We (the children) do appreciate the sacrifices and sleepless nights we have caused you. But the love you showed us has taught us to be responsible adults.

May this day be one of many more for us to thank you daily.

All our love,
Your loving children,
grandchildren and
great-grandchildren.
All the extended family, too.

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Sat. - Prime Rib
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Sun, April 25th - Open Mic Jam, 7pm
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RANGE FIRING

Range firing scheduled during April 23-29 is as follows:

The Range 40 Air to Ground Complex, located north of County Road 612, east of Guthrie Lake, south of Old State Rd. 618, and west of County Road F97 (Twin Bridge Road) - April 29.

Small Arms Ranges located west of Lake Margrethe, north of Howe Road, east of the gas pipeline and south of Portage Creek - April 23-25, and April 29.

Heavy weapons range firing is scheduled from sunrise until

three hours after sunset. Due to mobilizations or critical training requirements, the Post Commander may authorize mission-firing requirements beyond this time. This firing schedule is subject to change without notice to the public.

Contact the Grayling office of the Department of Natural Resources for the area closed for hunting within the boundaries of the installation. Grayling DNR telephone number: (989) 348-6371.

For further information call 1-800-628-5820.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Crawford County Sheriff Kirk Wakefield reports his office handled the following 90 complaints the week of April 12 - 18:

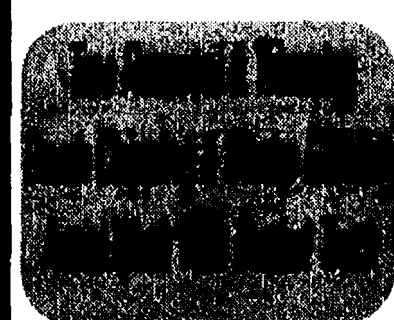
Four traffic accidents, one traffic safety public appearance, five civil matter disputes - family trouble, seven suspicious situations, one lost and found property, one natural death, one missing persons, 15 general non-criminal, one structure fire, four trees/brush/grass fire, one hazardous - spill/leak/power line, two delinquent minors, seven false alarm activations, one CSC (criminal sexual conduct)/sexual assault, two CSC 4th degree - forcible contact, two assault/intimidation/stalking, four burglary/home invasion, three larceny, three motor vehicle theft, three fraudulent activities, two damage to property, 16

public peace/disorderly, one health and safety, one conservation, one vagrancy, one driving violations/DWLS (driving while license suspended), etc.

Sheriff Wakefield asks: "Do you know where your children are?"

For more information, log on to: www.crawfordsheriff.org.

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Thanks again,
Brent Calkins

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2003 Chevrolet Silverado 3/4 Ton Crew Cab, 4x4, Duramax diesel, cloth, loaded, hard tonneau, 7,500 miles!..... Was \$35,960 ... **NOW \$33,960**

2002 Chevrolet Avalanche Z71 4x4, leather, sunroof, all the toys! Local trade..... Was \$24,960 ... **NOW \$22,960**

2001 Ford F-250 3/4 Ton Crew Cab, 4x4, V-10, loaded, two sets of wheels & tires!..... Was \$22,960 ... **NOW \$20,960**

2000 Ford F-250 3/4 Ton Crew, 4x4, long box, V-10, cloth, loaded, super clean truck..... Was \$21,960 ... **NOW \$19,960**

2000 Ford F-250 3/4 Ton Crew, 4x4, Powerstroke diesel, nicely equipped, great truck..... Was \$20,960 ... **NOW \$19,560**

2000 Chevrolet S-10 Ext. Cab, 2 WD, Extreme custom paint, V-6, loaded, chrome wheels!..... Was \$9,960 ... **NOW \$7,960**

1999 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab Z71, 4x4, 5.3 V-8, loaded, many accessories, sharp..... **NOW \$273.00/mo.**

1999 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab, 4x4, Z71, cloth, nicely equipped, tonneau cover..... Was \$14,960 ... **NOW \$12,960**

1998 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab, 4x4, Z71, 3rd dr, cloth, loaded, local trade!..... **BLOWOUT AT \$9,960**

1989 Chevrolet C1500 2 WD Reg. Cab, V-6, topper, good old truck..... **NOW \$2,960**

SUV'S

2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer, 4x4, LS, sunroof, loaded, sold & serviced here!..... **NOW \$22,960**

2002 Dodge Durango SLT, 4x4, V-8, leather, loaded, 3 seats..... Was \$20,960 ... **NOW \$18,960**

2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer LT, 4x4, sunroof, leather, loaded and sharp!..... Was \$22,960 ... **NOW \$20,960**

2002 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer Extreme, 2 door, V-6, sporty, loaded, factory warranty!..... **ONLY \$239*/mo.**

2001 Chevrolet Tracker ZR2, 4x4, 4 door, V-6, loaded, sharp truck, red..... **ONLY \$207*/mo**

2001 Pontiac Aztec, All wheel drive, loaded, V-6, super clean, great looking!..... **ONLY \$259*/mo**

1999 Ford Explorer, 4 door, 4x4, XLS, all power, clean, steal this one at..... **\$193*/mo.**

1999 Chevrolet Tahoe LS, 4 door, 4x4, cloth, nicely equipped, local trade..... **JUST \$12,960**

1998 Chevrolet Blazer, 4 dr, 4x4, cloth, loaded, sold and serviced here..... **NOW \$8,960**

VANS

2002 Pontiac Montana Van, 4 door, V-6, captain's chairs, factory warranty..... **NOW \$16,960**

2001 Chevrolet Venture Extended LT, Leather, loaded, power slider, local owner..... **NOW \$15,960**

1998 Pontiac Transport Extended Van, leather, loaded, captain's chairs, sharp!..... **NOW \$10,960**

1998 Chevrolet Venture Extended Van, 4 dr, cloth, a great family van..... **NOW \$7,960**

CARS

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2003 Chevrolet Malibu Sedans (2 to choose), V-6, full power, factory warranty..... **ONLY \$189*/mo.**

2002 Chevrolet Impala Sedan, V-6, loaded, local trade, nice car..... **JUST \$239*/mo.**

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2002 Hyundai Elantra 4 Dr. Sedan, Nicely equipped, local miles, super clean..... **NOW JUST \$12,960**

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2000 Pontiac Grand Am Sedan 4 Dr, V-6, nicely equipped, local trade..... **ONLY \$173*/mo.**

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1998 Mercury Sable GS Sedan, V-6, loaded, very clean, 70k miles..... Was \$6,960 ... **NOW \$5,960**

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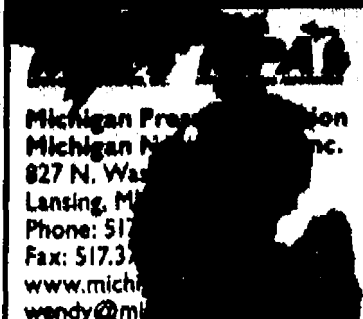
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They're the 'Dear Abbys' of Michigan's soldiers

by Glite Laasby
Capital News Service
LANSING - When life gets tough for families of Michigan soldiers deployed in Iraq, Mike Fraser is their counselor, friend, financial adviser and "do-all."

"I've become a 'Dear Abby' for anyone who wants to vent," he said with a smile. "They just want somebody to talk to."

As a coordinator of the Ishpeming family assistance center, Fraser makes monthly calls to the families and spouses of the about 130 Upper Peninsula and Wisconsin soldiers he serves.

"Families are trying to cope with the separation," he said. "There are couples who just got married before the soldier left, and they're still waiting for their honeymoon. This is not the regular training where the soldiers leave on Tuesday and come home on Saturday. The wives are frustrated, and that's where 'Dear Abby' comes in."

Together, Michigan's six centers - in Ishpeming, Midland,

Grayling, Sault Ste. Marie, Lansing and Wyoming - serve more than 2,000 soldiers' families. The centers are run by the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

In a vast, sparsely populated area, the job as a coordinator of a family assistance center can be challenging because practical problems must be solved at a distance.

"Sometimes the girls find out they're pregnant after the soldier leaves," Fraser said. "And up here, if it's 42 below and there is 19 feet of snow and they have to find a new doctor because they haven't seen one in years, that's not easy. We have to take them by the hand, even if it's 150 miles away."

On the other hand, Fraser said, most people in his area are proud and "stand offish," and take care of themselves rather than getting help. "We're very stand-alone up here. People make do for themselves."

Midland coordinator Nicole Addison said she often deals with the spouses' emotional needs.

"A lot of times we just get phone calls from people who are too emotional to deal with what's going on. And so we can be a level head for them," Addison said.

One phone conversation with an upset wife led her to take the woman to the hospital because she was going to attempt suicide. Addison said she does "whatever it takes to make sure that they're okay."

"Some people have a really hard time with it, and it can be overwhelming. And they have to find that one person or someone to link up with to help get them through. The girl I was helping didn't have anyone, and she had three kids of her own."

Addison said she can relate to

How you can help

To donate to the family fund and the assistance centers, call the Michigan National Guard state family support office at (517) 702-5116.

To contact the family assistance center in Grayling call (989) 344-6143.

the spouses' situation because she was a Marine for four years and her husband recently returned from service with the 1460th National Guard Transportation Company in Iraq.

While he was gone, she took care of their 2-year-old son and got support from spouses of other soldiers, saying it helped knowing that she wasn't the only one going through that situation.

"There aren't many people who are in the same boat as you when it comes to this - even your own parents, your own family," she said. "They don't really understand, and it helps to have another spouse who also has a 2-year-old who's going through the same exact thing. And you can link up with some of the spouses that your husband is with."

"My husband was very close with a couple of guys over there and I knew their wives here, so we could swap stories because they would talk about my husband."

Each military unit has a family readiness group that meets monthly to talk and hear news about spouses from the commander. Often they also come together when a soldier in the unit dies, as has happened four times so far since soldiers from the U.P. were stationed in Iraq, Fraser said.

"The funerals we've had... The attendance and support has just been phenomenal," he said.

"When one person grieves, everybody grieves. It's a togetherness up here."

The centers also help with more practical needs.

"One of the biggest issues is that the spouse that's left behind - whether it be male or female - isn't always the one who did the bills, and they may not understand how to do the bills," Addison said. "The 1460s had three to four days notice (of their call-up), and that's not enough to teach anybody anything."

In that type of case, she said, the coordinator first helps take care of immediate problems with creditors and overdue bills and then teaches the spouse how to figure out and manage a budget. The centers can also give up to \$500 to help families with specific needs, such as a broken furnace or an overdue car payment.

"There's a lot of emotional baggage behind a financial issue," Addison said. "Maybe they put off paying the bill, and then it'll be two months late. One woman was upset because she couldn't do what she wanted for her son who was in school, and she was late with her bill payments. We helped with her car payment, and that lightened the load for her."

At other times, the problems are more easily solved through e-mail or cell phones, which provide almost daily contact with the soldiers.

"Sometimes they come to us because 'Joey is not calling me enough,' so if I happen to know the commander of the unit or have a relationship with someone in the unit, I can shoot someone an e-mail and say, 'Hey, can you have so-and-so call his mom?'" she said, laughing.

"So whatever we have within our power, we can do. And if we can't do it, we'll find someone who can."

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Power company's People Fund helps little people



Photo courtesy of Crawford AuSable Day Care

Crawford AuSable Day Care show off some colorful masks they made and are pleased to announce their day care center has received a \$2,500 grant from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund to help pay the expense to renovate the center and increase its longevity. The People Fund is funded by Great Lakes customers who agree to "round up" their energy bills each month to the nearest dollar. Those extra cents accumulate in the People Fund for distribution through community grants. Crawford AuSable Day Care has been providing day care and pre-school programs in the community and surrounding areas for 23 years.

Saturday is Family Day at Dennon Museum

The Dennon Museum Center in Traverse City will host Family Day on Saturday, April 24, filled with fun learning activities for everyone.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will relate to the theme of the museum's current exhibit, Wit and Wine: A New Look at Iranian Ceramics from the Arthur Sackler Foundation; Nomadic Images: The Patina of

Time, paintings from Delbert Michael; and Antique Persian Rugs.

Fun is planned for children of all ages, including: hands-on art activities with museum docents including pinch clay pots, artist demonstrations, and interactive gallery hunt with prizes, story boards, films, and more.

Admission is \$2 for children, \$4 for adults, \$12 per family,

and free to Museum Members.

The Dennon Museum Center is located on the campus of Northwestern Michigan College.

Museum hours are Monday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call Kathleen Buday at (231) 995-1029.

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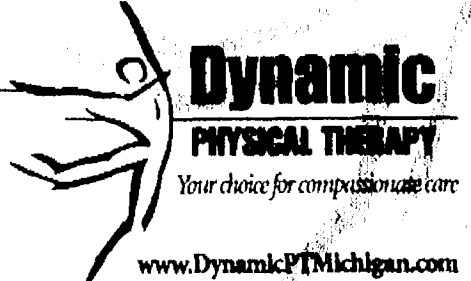
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Preschoolers tours Sheriff's Office, 911 Dispatch



Photo courtesy of NEMCSA Grayling Head Start

The NEMCSA Grayling Head Start center students had the opportunity in February to visit the Crawford County Sheriff's Office in Grayling. The children toured the E-911 Dispatch Center and tried their hands at working the sirens on squad cars. They all seemed to enjoy themselves, and the juice and cookies the officers shared with them did not hurt either. This field trip is arranged every year with the Sheriff's Office during Head Start's Community Helpers unit. Hosting the group, from left were Undersheriff Shawn Kraycs and Deputy Jason Alexander. The students, from left: Makenna VanAmburg, Brandon Harris, Lea Hilliker, Roger Walsh, Megan Clark, Dalton Peterson, Dyllan Williams, Keegan Richardson, Ashley Bancroft, Haley Naumiec, Seth Stanley, Taylor Corder, Clara Clark, Alyssa Arnold.

Hundreds expected to enter calendar/poster contest

Kelsey Turner, a fourth-grader at Prudenville Elementary School, submitted the first entry in the Kirtland's Warbler Festival poster/calendar contest.

The entry was quickly followed by one from Hunter Bloom, a fourth-grader at St. Joseph Elementary School in West Branch.

The first group entry was artwork sent in by 44 fifth-graders at Roscommon Middle School.

They are the first of what is expected to be hundreds of entries of original artwork dealing with the region's unique jack pine forest ecosystem, the Kirtland's warbler and its amaz-

ing recovery from near extinction, or any other creature that dwells in the jack pines.

And this year, the contest is expanding to the Bahamas, where the warbler makes its winter home. School children there have been given the same educational materials - videos and posters - that explain the recovery efforts in Michigan.

Winners are selected by a panel of judges and displayed at the Kirtland's Warbler Festival on May 15-16.

The 17 first-place winners and 30 honorable mentions will be featured on a 16-month calendar, available free to the public in September.

The college will again donate about 400 calendars to the COOR Intermediate School

District so that one may hang in every K-8 classroom.

"We felt this calendar was a great way to get the kids even more involved in promoting the festival as one of the truly unique events in our community," said Jim Enger, Kirtland's marketing director and chairman of the festival's organizing committee.

"Also, it's a great opportunity for the college to highlight the talents of many young artists whose work helps to celebrate one of the great environmental success stories of our time - the comeback of a species that not long ago was nearly extinct."

For more information on the Kirtland's Warbler Festival, and to reserve your 2004-2005 Young Artists Calendar, visit: warbler.kirtland.edu.

Calling all Kindergartners!

Planning has begun for fall of 2004. If your child will be 5 years old on or before December 1st, you need to register!! Please fill out a Kindergarten survey. These forms are available at local preschools, day-cares, and elementary schools. Hurry... the sooner you register the better!!!

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Kirtland's Warbler Festival buttons now on sale

► Volunteers needed to help with May 15-16 annual event

Kirtland's Warbler Festival buttons are now on sale at several area chambers of commerce and visitors bureaus, affording local residents a 40 percent discount on the price of attending the May 15-16 event.

The buttons cost \$3 in advance and \$5 on the Kirtland Community College campus the day of the event. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge and parking is free.

Buttons are available at chambers in Grayling, Houghton Lake, Mio, Roscommon, St. Helen and West Branch, and visitors' bureaus in Houghton Lake and Grayling.

The buttons are needed to attend all featured presentations and for the guided tours into the jack pines for the chance to see one of the world's rarest birds. But many other Festival happenings remain free of charge.

With dozens of nature-oriented attractions for local visitors and increasing numbers of birders attending from points all across the continent and as far away as Alaska, attendance is expected to again approach 2,500 for the 11th annual festival.

So volunteers are needed. "This is an opportunity to be helpful and to also join in the fun and educational events of the day," said volunteer organizer Carole Chilton. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors in the parking lot and give directions, sell badges needed for presentations and tours, help with children's activities such as constructing birdhouses and fishing in the pond, provide hospitality at the fine arts gallery, and distribute tickets to riders on a horse-drawn wagon to the nearby Red Pine area.

In all, more than 70 volunteers help keep things running smoothly. All volunteers will receive a special gift as well as a free badge.

Volunteers are community members from the Kirtland region, which lies in the heart of the jack pines Kirtland's warbler call home during the summer months. Northern Michigan is the only place where serious birders have a chance to view the bird. And it is easy to find in the forest because of its mating song. The Kirtland's warbler winters in the Bahamas, but is uncommonly difficult to find because it's not singing to attract a mate.

Those interested in volunteering for even a few hours should phone Chilton at (989) 275-5958, or Betty Ehinger at (989) 275-5000, ext. 252.

Besides featured entertainers, artists, photographers and all kinds of fun and educational activities for youngsters, festival organizers have added a second day featuring two additional trips to the jack pines in order to accommodate the growing numbers of birders who come to Roscommon to see the Kirtland's warbler.

For more information about the Kirtland's Warbler Festival, visit online at:

www.kirtland.edu/~warbler/

Crawford Historical Society cleans up

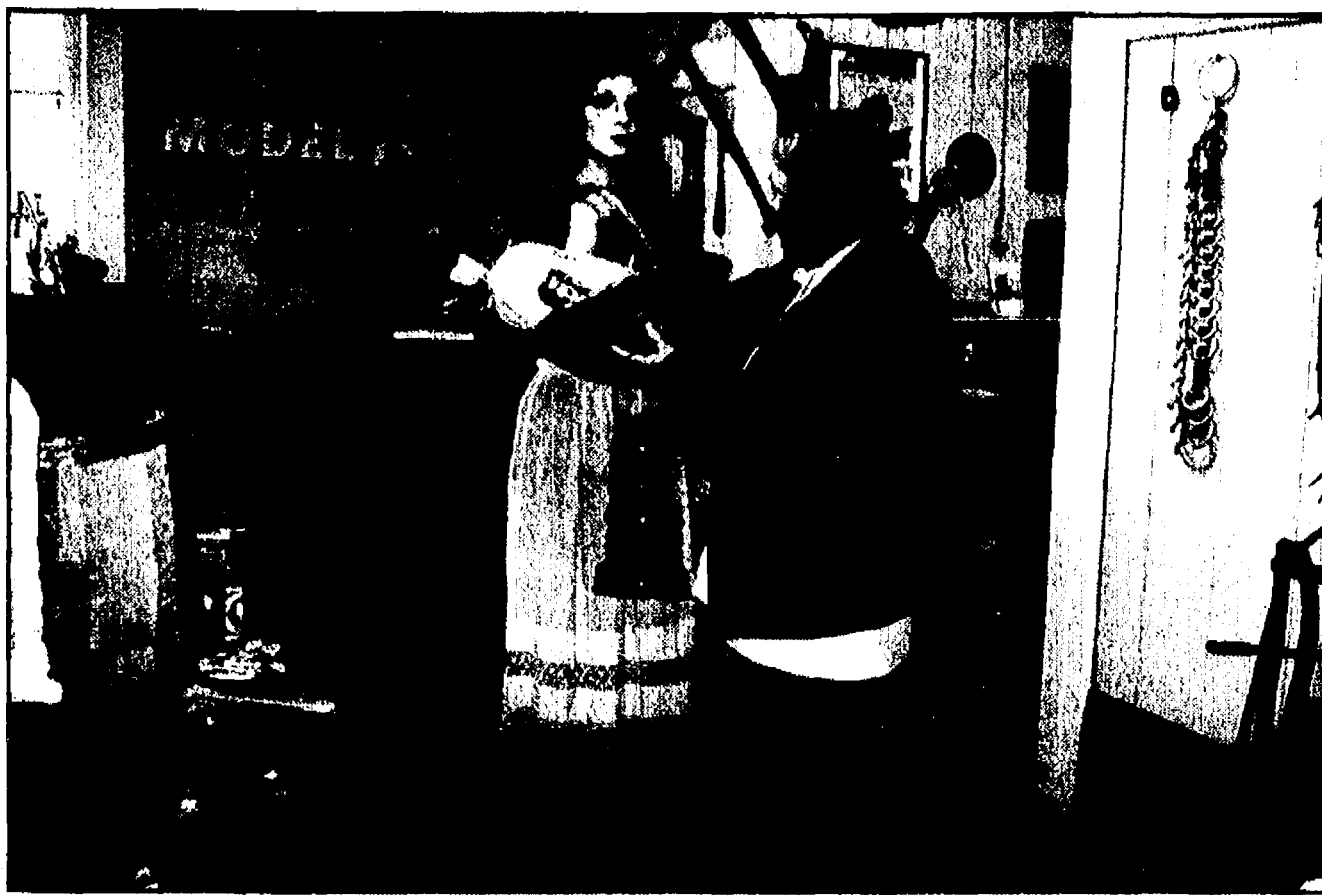


Photo courtesy of the Crawford County Historical Society

Volunteer Jeddy Hood adjusts the shopping basket of a pioneer woman during the Crawford County Historical Museum during the cleaning bee held April 10. Over 30 people participated with an average of 15 people working throughout the day. Collections were organized and the displays were thoroughly cleaned in readiness for the upcoming season.

Mistakes can be corrected with amended tax return

Oops! You've discovered an error after your tax return has been filed. What should you do? You may need to amend your return, according to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The IRS usually corrects math errors or requests missing forms (such as W-2s) or schedules. In these instances, do not amend your return. However, do file an amended return if any of the following were reported incorrectly:

- Your filing status;
- Your total income; and/or
- Your deductions or credits.

Use Form 1040X, "Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return," to correct a previously filed Form 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, or electronically-filed return.

If you are filing to claim an additional refund, wait until you have received your original refund. You may cash that check while waiting for any additional

refund. If you owe additional tax for 2003, you should file form 1040X and pay the tax by April 15, 2004 to avoid any penalty and interest.

Generally, to claim a refund, you must file Form 1040X within three years from the date you filed your original return or within two years from the date you paid the tax, whichever is later.

If the changes involve another schedule or form, attach it to the

1040X. If you are filing more than one amended return, be sure to mail each in a separate envelope to the IRS center for the area in which you live. The 1040X instructions list the addresses for the centers.

Forms and publications can be downloaded from the IRS web site at www.irs.gov or order them by calling toll-free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

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By Ernie Harwell



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We also need to teach our kids how they can protect their health and safety. One way to do this is to make sure they're properly protected when they're riding their bikes or in-line skating. They need to wear helmets and not take unnecessary risks that can lead to broken bones or worse.

By taking these simple precautions, we can dramatically reduce our chances of being injured when accidents happen.

And please remember to take care of your health before it's longggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



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GMS students successful at solo and ensemble festival

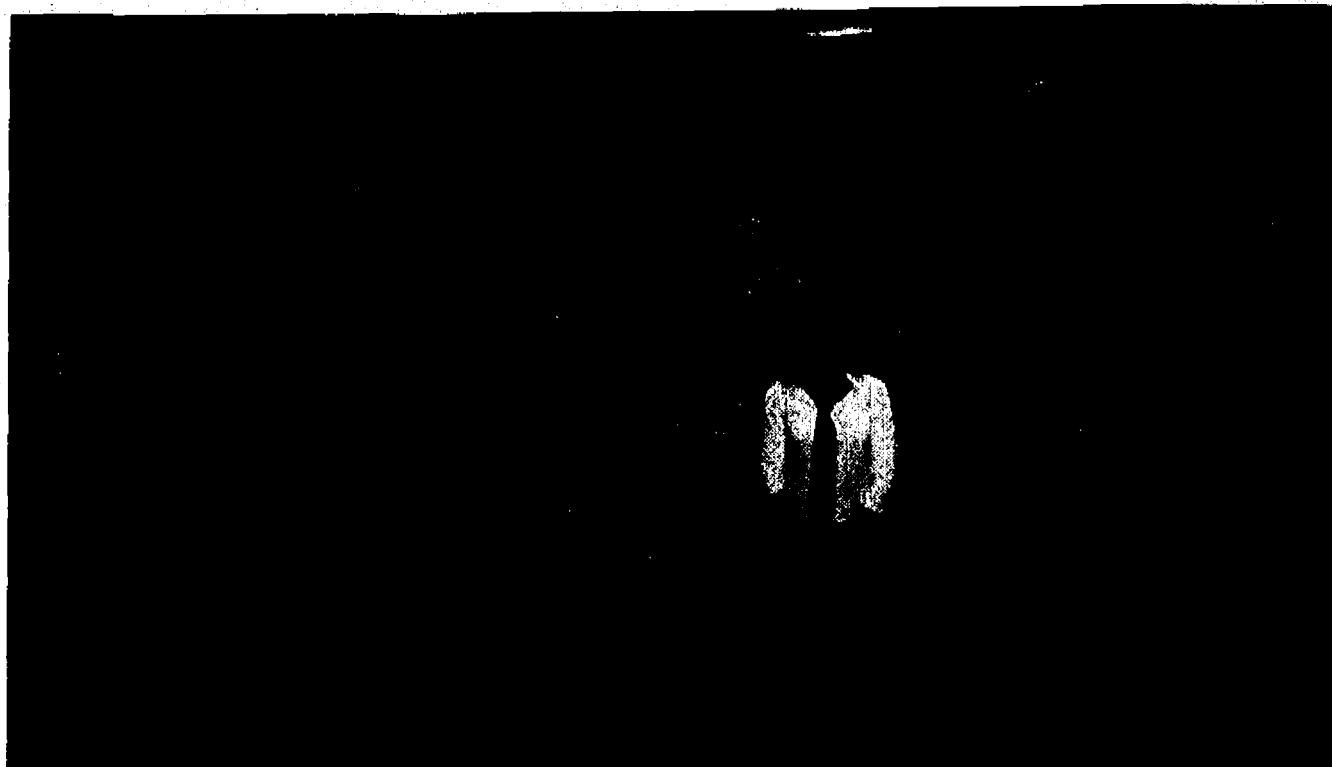
Members of the Grayling Middle School Seventh and Eighth Grade Bands participated in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District Solo and Ensemble Festival, Saturday, April 17, 2004, at Kalkaska Middle School.

The Grayling Middle School students performed in 42 different events, the most events from a single school in northwest Michigan.

Each event is rated from a first through fifth division rating. A first-division rating represents an excellent level of performance and musicianship for the event being judged. A second-division rating represents a good performance, but not worthy of the highest rating because of minor defects in performance, however, shows much accomplishment and promise.

The following solo events received a first-division rating:

Andrew Curriston (French horn), Brianna Farrell (oboe),



8th Grade Band Participants: Front Row (l to r): Jamie Denno, Lacey Hollingsworth, Annie Melroy, Julie Teal, Jessica Brandt, Storm Shriver, Kilah Vanderstelt. Middle Row: Andria Howe, John Ventline, Cassandra Pizzi, Fawn Filley, James Thao, Kristina Weiso, Christopher Wells, Nathan Parens. Back Row: Eva Clark, Nathan Pickell, Jamie Denno, Joseph Westman, Joshua Bofysil, Andrew Curriston, Christopher Petrie.



7th Grade Band Participants: Front Row (L to R) Emily Sloan, Heaven Bergman, Hilary Warsko, Sarah Miller, Jeff McMeekin, William Fowler (standing) Back Row: Kayla Hawes, Kara Holland, Chelsea Chamblee, Liz Dandy, Brianna Farrell, Stephani Howe, Marie Miller, Sondra Fleeman, Ross Teeple. Not Pictured: Hailey McMahon.

Chelsea Chamblee (bassoon), Christopher Wells (trombone), John Ventline (alto saxophone), Ross Teeple (alto saxophone), James Thao (baritone), Lacey Hollingsworth (clarinet), Julie Teal (flute), Storm Shriver (tenor saxophone), Emily Sloan (trumpet), Joe Westman (trumpet), William Fowler (trumpet), and Ethan Lynch (tuba).

The following duets received a first-division rating: Eva Clark, Nathan Pickell (trumpet); Annie Melroy, Andria Howe (flute); Storm Shriver, Joshua Bofysil (tenor saxophone/baritone); Emily Sloan, Kayla Hawes (trumpet); and Andria Howe, Lacey Hollingsworth (flute/clarinet).

The following solo events received a second-division rating: Joshua Bofysil (baritone), Jeff McMeekin (clarinet), Sondra Fleeman (clarinet), Stephani Howe (clarinet), Heaven Bergman (flute), Kara

Holland (flute), Kristina Weiso (flute), Liz Dandy (French horn), Hilary Warsko (trombone), Jamie Denno (trombone), Christopher Petrie (trumpet), Kilah Vanderstelt (trumpet), and Fawn Filley (xylophone).

The following ensembles received a second-division rating: Marie Miller, Sondra Fleeman (flute/clarinet); Kara Holland, Hailey McMahon (flute); Leigha Stevens, Hilary Warsko (baritone/trombone); James Thao, Jamie Denno (baritone/trombone); Sarah Miller, Marie Miller (flute/clarinet); and Nathan Parens, Christopher Wells, Christopher Petrie, Andrew Curriston, Ethan Lynch (brass quintet).

Mrs. Jill Scarzo accompanied 27 of the events with her outstanding piano skills.

Their band directors are Matthew Bishop and Michael Wrobel.

HONORS

Forthcoming University of Michigan graduate, Brandi McClain of Grayling, was recently selected to be a member of the National Dean's List.

The National Dean's List is the largest, most prestigious program in the country recognizing gifted students selected by their deans or faculty members.

Each year, 2,500 of the nation's colleges and universities use this list as a special award to honor students who are in the top 10 percent of their class. Only half of one percent of the nation's college students receive this award.

With this honor designation, Brandi is eligible to compete for \$50,000 in scholarships, become a member of the Student Referral Service, accept acknowledgment via newspapers, and receive national recognition by means of distribution of the official National Dean's List book to colleges and public libraries across the United



Brandi McClain

States.

Upon graduation, Brandi will accept her invitation to attend law school at the University of Detroit Mercy this fall.

Brandi is the daughter of Dave and Gayle McClain, and the granddaughter of Jerry and Wilda McClain, and Morden and Gloria Post.

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GMS names Students of the Month for March



Photo courtesy of Grayling Middle School

Grayling Middle School Students of the Month for March 2004 are, from left: (back row) Laura Johnson, Alyssa Lewis, Kristina Weiso, Sean Hernandez, Jason Wilson, Cody Frankowski, Michael Jozwiak, Jacob Bissell; (2nd row) Miescha McCuan, Nicole Joseph, Jason Drudge, Joseph Westman, Jacob Sell, Cody King, Hilary Warsko, Wesley Willoughby, Johana McGinnis; (front row) Jacob Niederhouse, Megan Patterson, Shawn Mills, Chelsea Chamblee, Trent Wagner; not pictured: Greg Toprak, Sierra Williamson.

GRAYLING HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

2003-2004 Marking Period 3 9th Grade

All "A" Honor Roll

Jonathan Bartha, Ali Ferrigan, Nicholas Fitzpatrick, Rachel Gibbs, Ashley Jurkovich, Kelly Lange, Robert Ramaswamy, Jamie Shaw, Tiffany Shinew, Douglas Slater Jr., Nicholas Tompkins.

9th Grade

"B" Honor Roll

Hank Abney, Emily Annabel, Mary Annabel, Krystal Babbitt, Jeffery Bancroft, Patrick Belcher, Angela Bickmann, Ashley Bindschatel, Jessica Bohemmyer, Jessica Boileau, James Boylan, Michael Boylan, Alex Brackenbury, Megan Burrick, Erich Christman, Joel Collin, Theodore Gomez III, Adam Goscicki, Glenn Hampton, Andrew Hart, Timothy Hatley, James Hilbrecht, Charles Hughes, Amanda Hulbert, Amanda Jackson, Mallory Johnson, Mary Johnson, Jonathan Kane, Monica Leslie, Angela Martella, Melissa McDaniel, Jamie Miller, Erica Moggo, Amanda Moran, Alexandria Mosel, Katie Murray, Jordyn Nadeau, Dennis Nelson, Candice Odden, Scot Olson, Nicholas Parkinson, Raymond Pease, Nathan Peters, Jessica SanFilippo, Katherine Sanford, Ashley Sawvel, Crystal Schwartz, Ryan Seewald, Rachel Sells, Cory Shear, Brittney Stoddard, Patricia Thomson, William Weaver Jr., Abby Wheeler, Kevin Whitney, Danielle Williams, Troy Wilson.

10th Grade

All "A" Honor Roll

Austin Andrus, Zachary Baker, Darcy Shinew.

10th Grade

"B" Honor Roll

Chelsea Currison, Orland Dami, Zachary Dean, Alex Donaldson, Jacob Emmons, Michael Flynn III, Zeke Hayes, Michael Hoag Jr., Matthew Hough, Shantina Jacobs, Ronald Johnston, Amanda Joseph, Victoria King, Matthew J. Larson, Matthew L. Larson, Kimberly Long, Amanda Lutz, Michelle McGuire, Jessie Morley, Elizabeth Pegouskie, Trisha Petersen, Drew Rasmussen, Tequila Rac Reynolds, Christina Schmidt,

Reagan Schmidt, John Schneider III, Maranda Shear, Andromeda Shunatona, Brittany Sloan, Matthew Smock, Andrea Southard, Amanda VanNuck, Chelsea VanNuck, Eli VanNuck, Toshua Wade, Elizabeth Westman, Samantha Wilkerson, Jamie Wyss.

11th Grade

All "A" Honor Roll

Travis Brush, Tyler Cragg, Jason Fekete, Daniel Hagerman, Casey Mahaffy, Mallory Olson, Thomas Pilon.

"B" Honor Roll

Kyle Alexander, Jess Bohemmyer, Beth Brewer, Stacey Brown, Rachel Brunell, Brent Calkins, Trevor Clough, Jaimi Drudge, Kelly Duckley, Jennifer Emmons, Thomas Everly, Alyssa Farrell, Erica Fenn, Jesse Ferrell, Adam Gilbert, Brian Gomez, Arnud Grebille, Jack Hagerman, Joshua Hinkle, Bethanie Hulbert, Shane Isenhauer, Lindsey Johns, Henry Lane, Samantha LeMaster, Tracey Lewis, Jennifer Long, Angeanette Lovely, Benjamin Lucey, Elizabeth Lucey, Nikki Lynch, Kassie McClain, Patrick Murray, Alex McNamara, Darrell Metzger Jr., Joshua Millikin, Anthony Neal, Justhiena Niederhouse, Erin Pahl, Samantha Palmer, Erica Parker, Tracy Payne, Amber Pindell, Jamie Pinkelman, Nicole Reyes, Justin Robinson, Ashley Rousseau, Nicholas Sala, Ryan Schmidt, Jason Strohpaal, Matthew Swope, Gibson Tobin, Jennifer VanNuck, Kathryn Voelker.

12th Grade

All "A" Honor Roll

Kip Franklin, Sean Kelly, Kimberly J. McDaniel.

"B" Honor Roll

Lisa Adkison, Phillip Armstrong, Christopher Bonnington, Luke Bryant, Samantha Collin, Roy Czapek, Andrew Czuba, Timothy Domicik, Danielle Fedak, Megan Fekete, Ashley Flynn, Danielle Ginther, Laura Gorski, Edward Goscicki Jr., Kathryn Grogan, Ashley Halfacre, Ashley Hawley, Jennifer Hill, Jennifer Hoag, Jennifer King, Andrew Limmel, Michael Lourenco, Megan Madill, Adam Malone, Hannah Miller, Monica Nemeth, Skylynn

Palmer, Dustin Partello, James Pease, Jason Phillips, Michael Salyers, Matthias Schafer, Lee Schreiber, Matthew Seager, Genecia Shinew, Briana Sivrasi, Daniel Snider, Heather Stamper,

Steven Stilson, Andrew Strohpaal, Tony Thomas, Shane Thompson, Heather Vandecar, Margaret VanGuilder, Erin Westman, Nahleayen Xiong, Jamie Zelek.

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ACE

Seven vying for three seats on KCC Board of Trustees

Two incumbents and two former deans are among seven candidates to vie for three seats in the June 14 school election of Kirtland Community College's Board of Trustees.

Jan Farmer of Rose City and Patricia Webb of Roscommon are running for re-election. A.J. Wilder of St. Helen is not seeking re-election.

Other candidates include former deans Paul Durbin and Richard Silverman, both of Roscommon; Louis Baker and Detmar Finke, both of Grayling; and Roberta Werle of Roscommon.

Terms are for six years.

Moore elected to chair college Republicans

On Saturday, February 28, 2004 over 100 College Republicans from across the state gathered in Grand Rapids for their annual convention. The purpose of the gathering was to elect new officers, hear from elected officials and prepare for the 2004 election cycle.

At the convention, Grayling native Sam Moore was unanimously elected Chairman of the Michigan Federation of College Republicans. Moore's responsibilities include leading the youth movement on all college campuses throughout Michigan, registering young voters and increasing voter turnout on college campuses statewide.

"This is an important election cycle, especially for students across Michigan," Moore said. "Our future hinges on who we elect to the White House and



Sam Moore

President Bush's policies ensure economic growth and a bright future for Michigan's college students."

"Only one in five 18 to 24 year olds actually vote," Moore said.

"I am committed to getting more people involved in the political process and turning out to vote on election day."

Throughout his term, Moore will be working closely with the Chairman of the Michigan Republicans Betsy DeVos, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land and Attorney General Mike Cox to ensure electoral success. "This is the election of the houses, from the White House, to the U.S. House, to the State House to the Courthouse: positions at every level are up for election," said Moore.

"Michigan is a critical state in this election cycle and the Republican youth of this state is committed to help deliver its 17 electoral votes to President Bush," Moore said. "When President Bush carries Michigan, the election is over."

MILITARY NEWS

Private First Class Brock McClanahan, son of Nancy and Randy Lawson and the late Brock McClanahan, was deployed on March 16. He took basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO after graduating in August of 2002.

PFC McClanahan was then assigned to duty at Fort Hood, TX. There he received training as an Explosives Specialist with advanced Terrorist Tacit Training in Louisiana.

He is assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, 8th Engineering Battalion and is stationed outside of Baghdad.

Brock married Jennifer DeJarnette on October 7, 2003 and the couple is expecting their first child in November. Jennifer is staying with Brock's parents while he is away.

Anyone who would like to send a letter of encouragement to Brock, mail to:

PFC McClanahan Brock
ACO 8th Engineers
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PFC Brock McClanahan

Parents: Help prevent backpack injuries

Backpack related injuries have gone up 256 percent since 1996. To help kids, Toupin Chiropractic Clinics will be performing free spinal examinations during the month of April, "National Backpack Safety Month."

Every child must be accompanied by a parent and will be scanned using the computerized Pro Adjuster.

After their exam, kids are welcome to enter the drawing for a free back pack. Call Toupin Chiropractic at 348-4560 for details. In addition, Toupin Chiropractic Clinics suggest the following tips to help prevent back problems:

- Make sure your child's back pack weighs no more than five to 10 percent of his or her body

weight

- The backpack should never hang more than four inches below the waistline.

- Urge your child to wear both shoulder straps. Wide, padded straps are very important.

- The shoulder straps should be adjustable so the backpack can be fitted to your child's body.

- Make sure corners of books and bulky objects are packed away from the area that will rest on the child's back.

GRAYLING POLICE REPORT

Grayling City Police Chief Karl A. Schreiner reports his department handled the following types of complaints during the period of April 11 - 18:

One assault, three larceny, five traffic warnings, two misdemeanor arrests, two civil, two alarms, four assist other departments, two disturbing the peace, three juvenile, one harassment, one animal control, one motorist assist, three private property accidents, two traffic accidents, and 12 unclassified.

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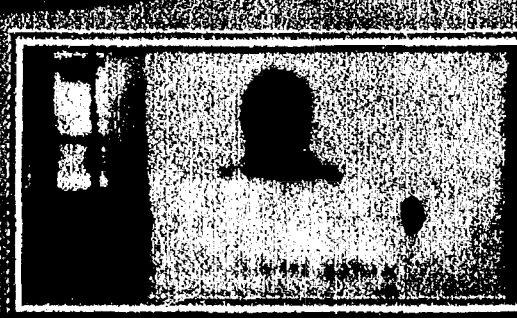
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April 13: (Game 1) Grayling 6-Gaylord 5
(Game 2) Grayling 7-Gaylord 2

April 15: (Game 1) Grayling 14-Roscommon 5
(Game 2) Grayling 4-Roscommon 2

Vikings off to a 4-0 start

Grayling sweeps Gaylord Blue Devils and Bucks of Roscommon

With series sweeps of the Gaylord Blue Devils and the Roscommon Bucks last week, the GHS varsity baseball team is off to a 4-0 start in its 2004 season.

On Tuesday, Grayling defeated Gaylord 6-5 in game one of a doubleheader at Grayling. Senior Joe Lange pitched for the Vikings, scattering 11 hits and three earned runs over the course of the game to pick up the win.

D.J. Metzger and Greg Morrill were the leading hitters for Grayling. Both players were 2 for 3 with 2 RBI. Second baseman Ryan Davis hit a solo homerun in the fourth inning. Morrill knocked in the winning run with a single in the bottom of the fifth inning after Metzger opened the inning with a base hit and stole second base.

The Vikings lost senior Travis Helsel to injury in the game. Helsel broke his left tibia stealing second base and is expected to be out for the season. "This was a big loss to the Viking pitching staff as Travis was being counted on as a starting pitcher and closer in relief," Coach Bob Gorski said.

In game two, senior Roy Czapek pitched a two-hitter and struck out 11 batters in a 7-2 Grayling victory. Both runs scored by Gaylord were unearned.

Leading hitters for Grayling: Metzger, 2 for 2, 1 RBI; Gibson Tobin, 1 for 3, 3 RBI (including

Continued on Page 2B

See "VIKINGS OFF..."



Ryan Davis pitches for the Vikings in game one of the series at Roscommon last Thursday.

Trout, walleye seasons open April 24

Forecast looks promising for opening weekend of trout fishing

Fishing seasons for trout and walleye begin this weekend.

"With what (weather) we've had and what they're calling for, it should be a good (trout) opener," said Jack Millikin of Skip's Sport Shop.

Millikin said the water levels on area rivers have been stable and the recent sunny weather should help fishing conditions. A little bit of rain could also help, he said.

At this point, opening weekend of trout season should be a good one for anglers unless weather conditions change to very cold and/or very rainy on Thursday or Friday, Millikin said.

The walleye opener "should be fair," Millikin said. "(Walleye) will probably be sluggish in the lakes. (Anglers) should take their time in the holes and weed beds."

More fishing information:

- The Lovells Township Historical Society will host a whole weekend of activities centered around the trout opener on April 24 and 25. Events will be held at the Lovells Township grounds (8405 Twin Bridge Road). The weekend will include presentations, activities, and museum exhibits.

Schedule of events:

Saturday, April 24 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Log Museum Mereshon

Continued on Page 5B

See "TROUT, WALLEYE..."

Softball team falls to Gaylord, Roscommon

Vikings lose two to Blue Devils at home, two to Bucks on road

The GHS varsity girls softball team opened its 2004 season with a pair of losses to the Gaylord Blue Devils at Grayling last Tuesday.

Gaylord won the first game of the doubleheader 12-2.

"We had some opportunities. We had the bases loaded in the third and fourth innings, we just couldn't come up with the big hit when we needed it," Coach Caleb Casey said. "Gaylord's defense was solid. They made the routine plays and they made a couple nice plays on well-hit balls."

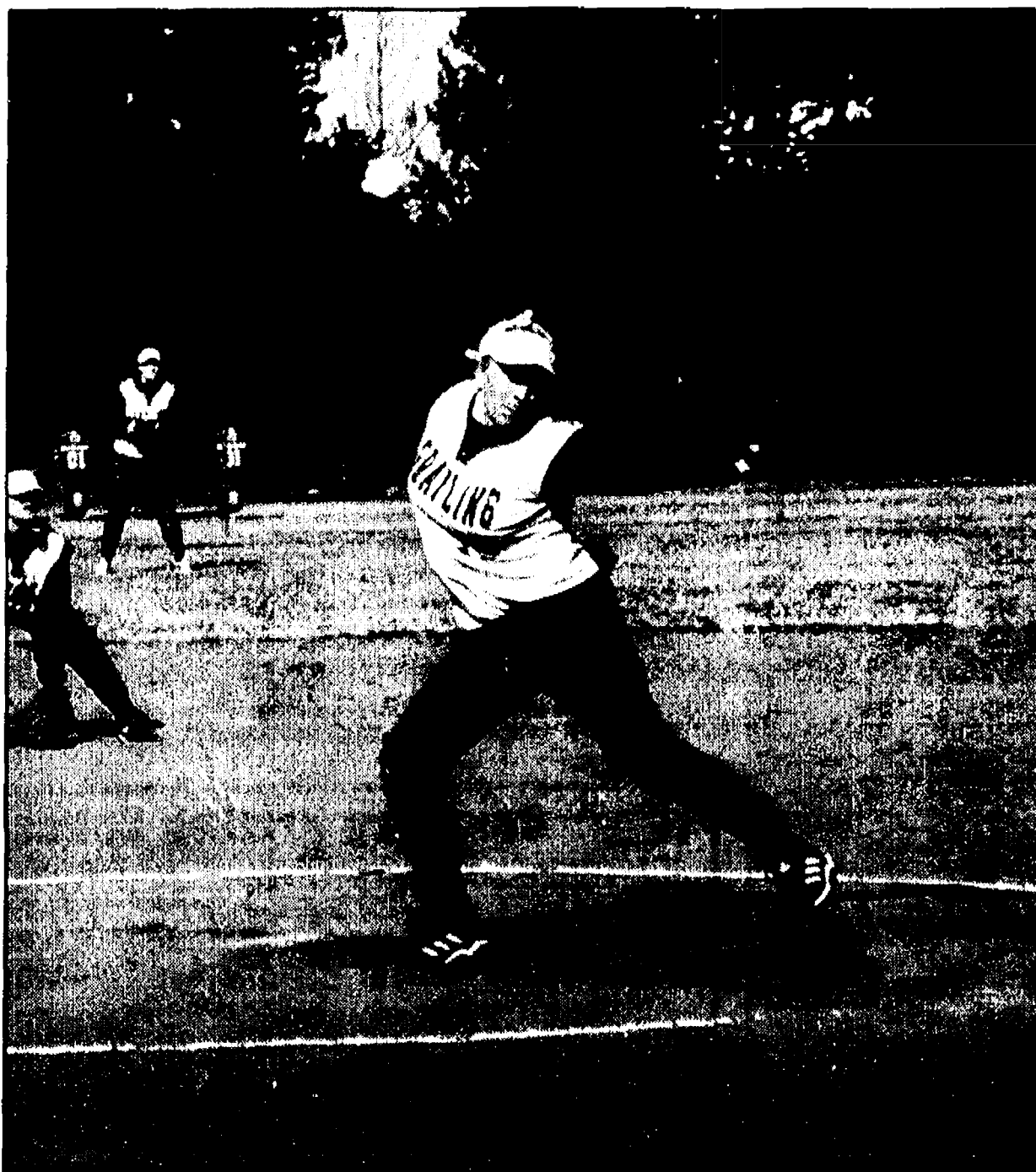
The leading hitter for GHS was Ashley Prosser, who was 1 for 1 with a single. Skylynn Palmer drew three walks. Heather Metzger and Samantha Stephan scored runs for the Vikings.

Laura Gorski pitched the entire game for GHS. She posted four strikeouts.

Grayling scored four runs in the first inning - three with two outs - and scored four more in

Continued on Page 4B

See "SOFTBALL TEAM..."



Senior Laura Gorski pitches for Grayling in game one of last Tuesday's doubleheader vs. Gaylord.

Bucks edge Vikings 2-1 in soccer



Casey Mahaffy battles for a ball in the Grayling vs. Roscommon varsity girls soccer match at RHS last Friday. The Bucks won 2-1. For more on the game, see Page 3B.

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Sat - Sun @ 2:00 & 4:00 p.m.

13 Going On 30 - PG-13
Starring - Jennifer Garner
Nightly @ 7:05 & 9:15 p.m.
Sat - Sun @ 2:10 & 4:15 p.m.

Home on the Range - PG
Voices of - Cuba Gooding Jr.
Nightly @ 7:05 p.m.
Sat - Sun @ 2:00 & 4:00 p.m.

Walking Tall - PG-13
Starring - The Rock
Nightly @ 9:10 p.m.

The Whole Ten Yards - PG-13
Starring - Matthew Perry, Bruce Willis
Nightly @ 9:05 p.m.

The Punisher - R
Starring - Thomas Jane, John Travolta
Nightly @ 7:00 & 9:15 p.m.
Sat - Sun @ 2:00 & 4:15 p.m.

Man On Fire - R
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Nightly @ 7:00 & 9:35 p.m.
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Evenings - Adults \$6.75 • Children \$5.55 • Seniors \$6.75
Tuesday Senior Matinee at 2:00pm All Seats \$5.50
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Vikings off to a 4-0 start

Continued from Page 1B

a two-run homerun in the bottom of the fifth inning to break a 2-2 tie; Czapek followed Tobin with a three-run homer to cap a five-run rally.

In the sixth inning, Czapek struck out the side to seal the win.

On Thursday, Grayling won both games of a doubleheader at Roscommon 14-5, 4-2.

The first game was a pitcher's duel until the fifth inning. Grayling led 5-2 after four innings following a three-run homerun by Morrill and a solo homerun by Davis. The Vikings erupted for five runs in the fifth inning and four runs in the sixth. Davis pitched the first five innings for Grayling and Metzger pitched the final two to sew up the victory.

Leading hitters (Grayling): Morrill, 3 for 3, 4 RBI; Tobin, 2 for 3; Lange, 2 for 3; Davis, 2 for 3, 3 RBI; Metzger, 1 for 4, 3 RBI.

Game two was another pitcher's duel. Andy Strohpaul pitched into the fourth inning for Grayling, allowing three hits, two runs, and three walks while striking out three. Lange came in to pitch in relief in the fourth inning with one out and the bases



Josh Hinkle bats for Grayling in the series at Roscommon on Thursday.

loaded, and Grayling leading 2-1. Lange walked a batter to force in a run. Metzger made a great catch running into the gap to end the Rosecommon rally, leaving the bases full.

In the top of the fifth (and final

inning due to darkness), Lange hit a two-run homer with Tobin on base by way of a lead-off walk. Lange picked up the win in relief to raise his 2004 season record to 2-0.

Leading hitters for Grayling:

Lange, 3 for 3, 3 RBI; Metzger, 1 for 3, 1 RBI.

The Vikings head into their league schedule this week with a 4-0 overall record (0-0 conference, 4-0 non-conference).

"Charlevoix and Elk Rapids

have veteran clubs who should prove to be formidable opponents," Coach Gorski said.

The Vikings will host Elk Rapids on Thursday, April 22, at 4:30 p.m. On April 26, Grayling plays at Kalkaska.

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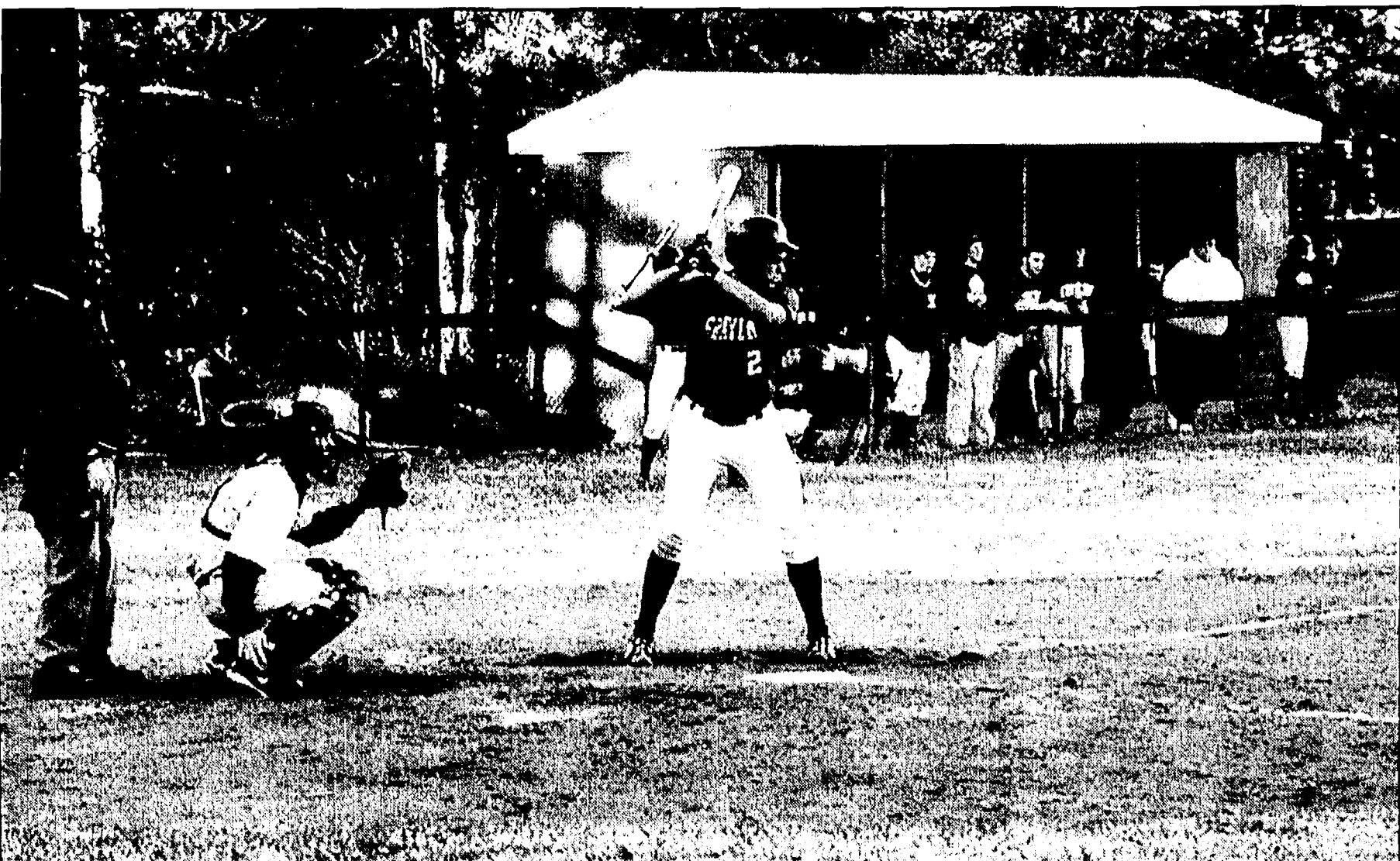
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Roy Czapek bats for the Vikings in the series vs. Gaylord on Tuesday night.

JV baseball team sweeps Gaylord, Roscommon

Vikings off to a 4-0 start with wins over Bucks, Blue Devils

Grayling High School's junior varsity baseball team opened its 2004 campaign with four wins last week, sweeping doubleheaders from Gaylord and Roscommon.

Grayling won the first game of the Gaylord series 16-3. Pitchers JC Schneider and Derek Etzler combined for a two-hitter. Schneider had a no-hitter going until a bunt single in the fifth inning. Etzler came in and got the last out of the fifth and retired the side in the sixth. Schneider got the victory.

Leading hitters for GHS were: Etzler, 3 hits, 2 RBI; Schneider, 2 hits, 3 RBI (including a bases

loaded triple); Zac Baker, 2 hits; Billy Stewart, 1 hit (double), 2 RBI.

In game two, Russ Peters made his pitching debut, throwing a 4-hit complete game against the Blue Devils. Grayling won 16-2. Peters gave up four hits and two runs in the first inning, then settled down to get the victory.

Leading Grayling hitters in game two were: Bobby Starks, 3 hits, 2 RBI, 3 runs scored; Stewart, 2 hits, 2 RBI, 3 runs scored; Mike Boylan, 1 hit, 2 RBI.

"The team played very well for not practicing for a week because of spring break. Etzler, Schneider, Stewart, and Starks hit the ball extremely well. Russell Peters did an outstanding job for his first time on the mound. We played excellent

defense in both games. Jim and Mike Boylan hit the ball hard," Coach John Schneider said.

On Thursday, the Vikings won two close games vs. Roscommon 6-4, 7-6.

In game one, Eli VanNuck was the winning pitcher for Grayling. Peters recorded a save pitching in relief.

Leading hitters (Grayling): Stewart, 1 hit (triple), 3 RBI; Mike Boylan, 2 for 2 with 2 runs scored.

Etzler pitched the entire second game for Grayling and picked up the victory.

Leading hitters (Grayling): Etzler, 2 hits; Schneider, 1 hit, 2 RBI (including the game winner).

"In the first game we played a little sloppy and sluggish. Stewart and Starks hit the ball hard once again. In the second game we played better defense but the bats went a little silent. Billy Stewart got hit in the face and had to come out in the first inning. We missed his bat. Brian Mastej made a great play hitting the cut-off to Ben Jones, who nailed the tying run at home throwing the ball to Josh Mastej to end the game," Coach Schneider said.

"It's a great start. We have a good team, but we must keep working hard to stay successful," Coach Schneider said.

The JV team plays at Elk Rapids on Friday, April 23, at 4:30 p.m.

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May 10-27 M,T,W,Th 3:30-5:30 p.m. May 11,13,18 T,TH,T 5:30-7:30 p.m.
June 14 - July 1 M,T,W,Th 8:00-10:00 a.m. July 12, 14, 15 M,W,Th 10:00am-12:00 noon
July 6-22 M,T,W,Th 8:00-10:00 a.m.

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Bucks edge Vikings 2-1 in soccer



Grayling goalkeeper Ashley Hawley sets up for a save in Friday night's game against the Bucks at RHS.

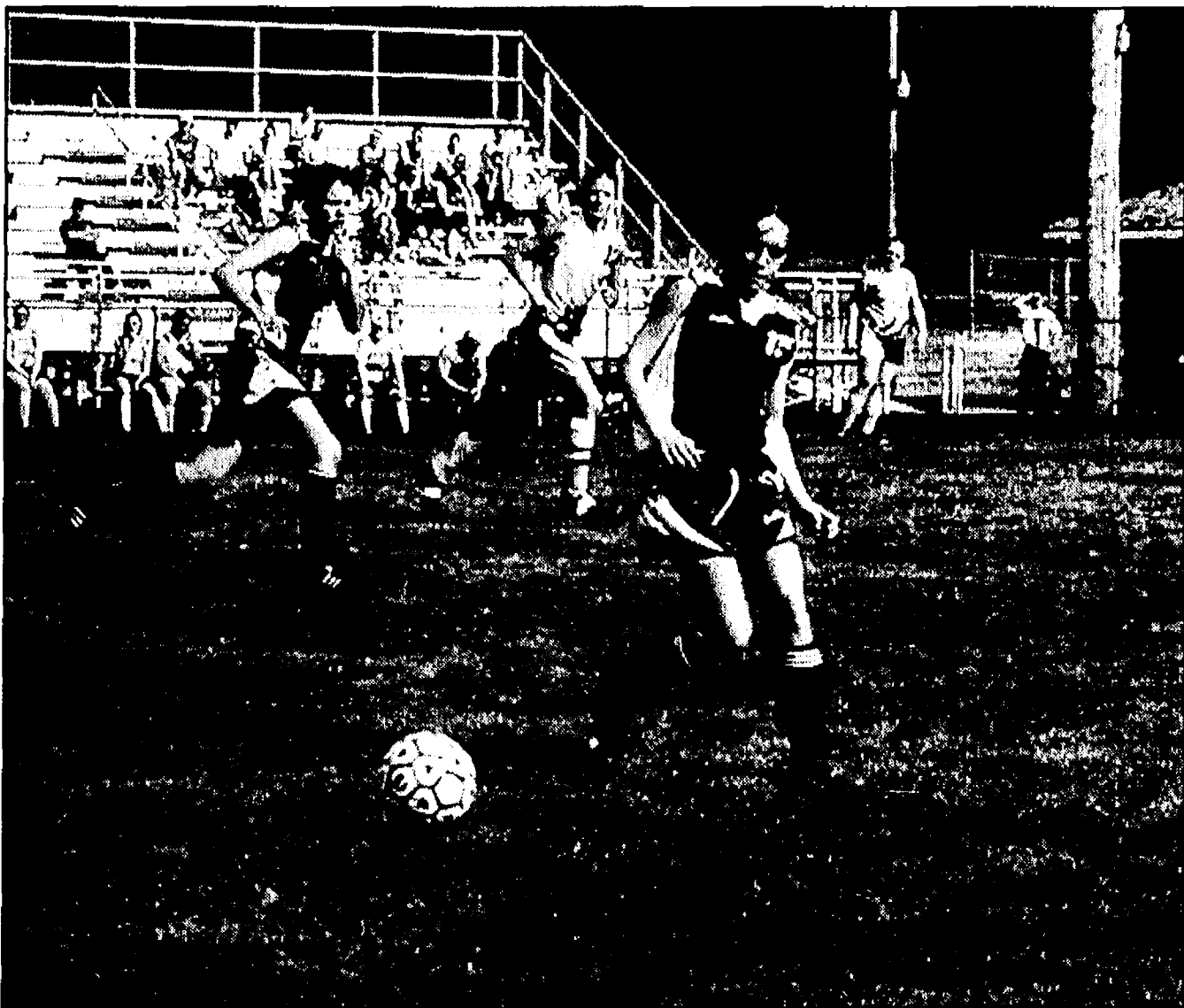
The Bucks of Roscommon edged Grayling High School's Vikings 2-1 in a varsity girls soccer contest at Roscommon last Friday.

The Bucks scored both of their goals in the first half, including

one on a penalty kick. Grayling pulled within one with a penalty kick by Jill Seager at the 14:42 mark in the second half. The Vikings made a few runs at the net in the closing minutes but couldn't tie the game.

Roscommon held on for the 2-1 victory.

The Vikings will host Boyne City on Thursday, April 22, at 5 p.m. On Monday, April 26, Grayling will host Charlevoix at 5 p.m.



Jill Seager receives a pass from a teammate in Friday's game at Roscommon.

Boys track team opens with home meet

The GHS boys track team opened its 2004 season with a home meet vs. Charlevoix, Boyne City, and Elk Rapids last Thursday. Final team scores were: Charlevoix 119, Boyne City 59, Grayling 58, and Elk Rapids 12.

Placements for GHS included: 1st - Tyler Cragg, 400m, 59.5; Ryan Schmidt, 300m hurdles, 41.9; Reagan Schmidt, 3200m, 11:04; Shawn Gabriel, Reagan Schmidt, Brent Gabriel, Cragg, 1600m relay, 3:51; 2nd - Tim Umlor, discus, 122'; Shawn Gabriel, 800m, 2:14; Cragg, 100m, 12.09; 3200m relay team, 9:87; 800m relay, 1:51.

"I was proud of their effort today. We will treat these first few meets as practices. Tyler Cragg and the Schmidt brothers sent the message today that they will be tough to beat in the LMC," Coach Ben Brock said.

The Vikings will compete against three other Lake Michigan Conference teams in a meet at Boyne City on Monday, April 26. The track team will compete in the Mio Invitational on Friday, April 30.

2004 Graduating Seniors!!!

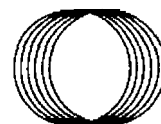


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Skylynn Palmer and Heather Metzger (at third base and shortstop, respectively) get set for a pitch in last Tuesday's doubleheader vs. Gaylord.

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Softball team falls to Gaylord, Roscommon

Continued from Page 1B

the fifth. "Walks hurt us, we gave up 10 - four in the fifth inning," Coach Casey said.

The Blue Devils won the second game 16-5.

"(Gaylord) just flat out hit the ball this game. One of their girls hit a homerun over the center field fence and they had at least two warning track hits for extra bases. We gave up nine walks, which didn't help, but you have to give (Gaylord) credit for what they did at the plate," Coach Casey said.

For Grayling, Jessica Henderson, Kelly Dunckley, and Prosser each had a hit in game two. Dunckley, Gorski, Prosser, Chelsea Wolcott, and Emily Harvey scored runs for the Vikings. Wolcott pitched the entire game for GHS.

"For our first series out, I thought the girls played pretty well. We battled both games and

didn't give in. The final scores might not look great, but this was a decent start for us and we'll keep working on getting better," Coach Casey said.

On Thursday, the Vikings lost a two-game series at Roscommon, 14-2 and 10-1.

Grayling got off to a rough start. The Vikings lost their starting pitcher, Gorski, to injury in the first inning of game one. Wolcott pitched the rest of the game in relief. She struck out six.

The Bucks scored five runs in the first inning with five walks and two singles. Roscommon scored four more runs in the second, three in the third, and two in the fourth.

"Walks hurt us again. We gave up 15," Coach Casey said.

Leading hitters for Grayling were: Heather Metzger, 2 for 3 with 1 RBI and 1 run scored; Heather Vandecar, 2 for 2 with a double and a single; Henderson,

1 for 2 with a walk and one run scored; Palmer, 1 for 1 with one walk; Erica Parker, 1 for 2; Wolcott, 1 for 1.

Game two was close until the fifth inning. With the score at 4-1, the Bucks scored six runs in the fifth inning to lead 10-1. The Vikings had bases loaded in the sixth and seventh innings, but failed to capitalize.

"Like with Tuesday's series, we did a good job putting the ball in play - we just couldn't come up with the big hit," Coach Casey said. "We battled, we just couldn't quite put it all together today."

Game two hitting leaders for Grayling were: Dunckley, 2 for 3 with one walk; Metzger, 1 for 3 with a walk; Henderson, 1 for 3 with one run scored; Jenni Emmons, 1 for 3.

On the mound, Wolcott went the distance for Grayling. "She pitched a pretty good game," Coach Casey said. "On defense, Harvey and Parker both made nice catches in center field."

On Thursday, April 22, the Vikings will host Elk Rapids at 4:30 p.m. The team plays at Kalkaska on April 26.



Catcher Jessica Henderson looks a runner back at third base during the Gaylord series.

BANK REPOSSESSED CARS TO BE SOLD DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC

Scheer Motors of Grayling is Selected to Dispose of Bank Repos And Other Used Vehicles for Only \$29 and Fees Then Start Making Payments*

Grayling, Michigan - Bank repossessed cars and trucks are among the most hunted-for bargains in the automobile industry. Unfortunately for John Q. Public, they're also the hardest to come by. Banks often unload these repos to car dealers at rock bottom prices allowing dealers to resell them for retail value. But bargain seekers can take heart:

This week **A.C.E. of North America** has selected Scheer Motors of Grayling, Michigan to be the official disposal site for these incredible bargains. This Monday, April 18 through Saturday, April 24, Scheer Motors of Grayling, Michigan will have bank repos, lease returns, and other used vehicles for thousands below normal values and will pass those savings on to their customers.

"These have been acquired at incredible savings from banks (repos), factory auctions and other sources," Brad Scheer, owner of Scheer Motors said. "Our creditors have asked us to sacrifice this inventory immediately - regardless of loss of profit. If that means selling these vehicles for near or below wholesale, then that is what we will do."

Every bank repo and other pre-owned vehicle will be available

for just \$29 plus a fee* and then start making payments. "It's just that simple," said Scheer. "To make these bargains even easier, we'll mark the payment right on the windshield. Just pick a car and a payment. You won't find a faster easier way to get a great deal on a pre-owned vehicle." Almost every type and price range will be available, from luxury, to 4x4's, to basic transportation. "With pre-owned vehicles near an all time high, chances are we will have what you are looking for in stock and ready to drive home," Scheer said.

A.C.E. of North America has flown in extra financial staff from three states to assure Scheer Motors of Grayling customers prompt, courteous service and the best financial terms possible. Scheer said, "We will have over \$5 million in financing available for this event. So chances are we can arrange financing for just about anyone who is employed, regardless of past history."

All trade-ins will be accepted with a minimum \$2500 guaranteed value and customers are encouraged to bring their titles or payment book to expedite immediate delivery of these vehicles.

"The opportunity bargain-hunters have been waiting for is here, Monday through Saturday in Grayling. Every bank repo and other used vehicle is just \$29 and then start making payments. Customers won't find a faster easier way to save big money on a great used vehicle," Scheer said.

After the mega-sale ends at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 24, Scheer Motors of Grayling will send many of these vehicles to auction. Any questions can be directed to 1-989-348-5451. Scheer Motors of Grayling is located at 829 I-75 Business Loop in Grayling, Michigan. The hours of this sale will be Monday through Thursday 9am-8pm; Fri 9-6 Sat 9-3

"We hope to see everyone there and ready to drive away with the deal of a lifetime," said Scheer.

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Vikings of the Week

Ashley Prosser

Heather Metzger

Varsity Softball
Coach: Caleb Casey

ASHLEY PROSSER & HEATHER METZER

Ashley was 2 for 3 with a walk and one run scored in Tuesday's series vs. Gaylord. Heather was 3 for 6 with 1 RBI, 1 run scored, and 1 walk at Roscommon on Thursday.

Chelsea Wolcott pitches for Grayling in game two of the Gaylord series.

Trout, walleye seasons open April 24

Continued from Page 1B

Exhibit and Kellogg School House River Guide Camp, with Guide Historic AuSable River Boat Activities; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Historic Fly tying in Lovells Township Hall, Vintage Bamboo Rod Fly Casting on Township Grounds; 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Free Mershon "Woods Chili" and coffee at the Guide Camp; 1:30 p.m. to

2:30 p.m. - Power Point Slide Presentation "William B. Mershon on the North Branch" by Robert Kohrman, followed by a panel discussion: "More about Mershon" With Glen Eberly, Roger Fechner, Bob Kohrman & Ned Wickes; Sunday, April 25, 2004 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Log Museum Mershon Exhibit and Kellogg School House River Guide

Camp Historic AuSable River Boat.

• To fish legally, all people age 17 and over must purchase a fishing license. People under the age of 17 may fish without a license but they must observe all fishing rules and regulations.

Basic license fees: Restricted (good for all species except trout and salmon), \$14 (upgrade to All Species for an

additional \$13); All Species (good for all species, required on all designated trout streams and lakes), \$27.

• Free Fishing Weekend is scheduled for June 12 and 13, 2004. Michigan residents may fish without a license during free fishing weekend but all other fishing rules and regulations must be observed.

Basketball team announces awards

The GHS varsity basketball program recently announced its 2003-04 team awards and all-conference honorees:

Team awards: Most Valuable Players - Gibson Tobin and Joe Lange; Most Improved Players - Bobby Starks and Andy

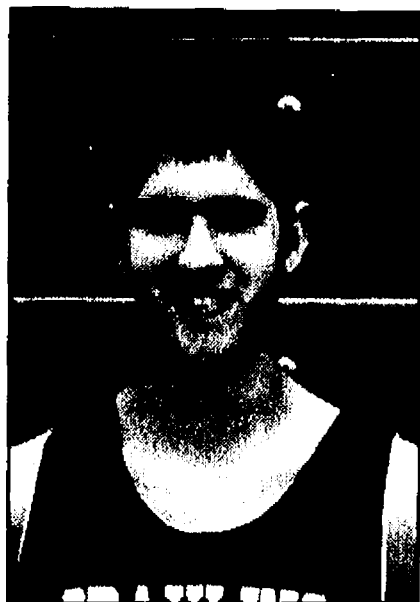
Strohpaal; Mr. Hustle - Chad Helsel and Roy Czapek; Senior Leadership Award - Joe Zelek, Greg Morrill, Travis Helsel.

All-league players: Joe Lange, Gibson Tobin, Roy Czapek.

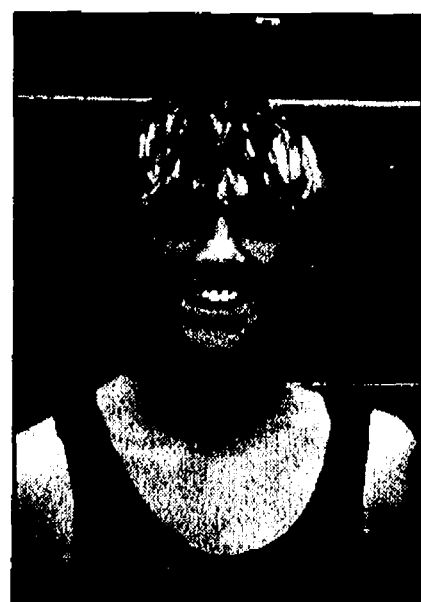
Tobin was also named: AP All-State honorable mention, BCAM

All-State 6th team, *Traverse City Record-Eagle* Class B All-Region Team.

As a group, the Vikings earned a spot on the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Academic Class B All-State Team with a 3.18 team GPA.



Joe Lange
All-Conference



Gibson Tobin
All-Conference



Roy Czapek
All-Conference

KIRTLAND GOLF

Kirtland's golfers continued their early season difficulties, failing to field a complete team in consecutive meets.

The Firebirds had just three golfers Friday at the 14-team Kalamazoo Valley Invitational, and were without their best golfer Mike Mieske, who opened the season with a second-place individual finish in an eight-team tourney the week before. Teams need four golfers to qualify for a

team score.

Scott Stegman, a freshman from Roscommon, led the Birds with an 85, followed by Eric Crawley's 89 and Mike Hodnett's 102.

At the three-team Mott Invitational on Monday, only three Kirtland golfers finished the round after Mieske walked off the course for reasons Coach Mike Glover couldn't explain.

In that match, Stegman and

Jonah Schutte, a sophomore from Whittemore-Prentiss, finished tied among Kirtland golfers with an 86, followed by Hodnett's 93.

Kirtland's golf season continues April 18-19 with the first leg of the Eastern Conference Championships at the Bedford Valley in Grand Rapids.

The Firebirds play host to their own invitational on April 23 at The Quest. Tee-off is 11 a.m.

FISHING REPORT

Rivers: Trout season opens on April 24. Unless the weather changes to very cold and/or very rainy, it should be a good opener for anglers.

Lakes: Anglers are getting a few steelhead on the Boardman River, Pere Marquette, and Boyne River. Fishing should be fair to good.

Panfish season is open. Bluegill are starting to come into the shallows at Lake Margrethe. On Houghton Lake, fishermen have been getting a few crappie and bluegill in the shallows behind Coyle's Restaurant.

Anglers have also been getting a few bluegill and crappie on Manistee Lake. Try fishing mid-

afternoon or early evening at the drop of the channel with minnows, wigglers, or waxworms.

Walleye and pike will probably still be sluggish in area lakes. Anglers should fish the holes and weed beds and take their time.

(Information courtesy of Skip's Sport Shop.)

LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN 46th JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ORDER FOR ALTERNATE SERVICE 04-20418

CASE NO. 04-6399-CH
200 West Michigan Avenue
Grayling, MI 49738
989-348-2841

Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, N.A.
as Trustee for Delta Funding Home
Equity Loan Trust 1998-2

Plaintiff attorney
Potestivo & Associates, P.C.
36150 Dequindre Rd., Suite 810
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
(586) 795-4400

Gregory Cain and
Cynthia Ann Cain, husband and
wife

605 Fern Street
Grayling, MI 49738
THE COURT FINDS:

1. Service of process upon defendant Gregory Cain and Cynthia Ann Cain cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR 2.105, and service of process may only be made by posting to the door of the property as defendant is deceased and an Estate has not been opened in order to alternatively serve a personal representative.

IT IS ORDERED:

2. Service of the summons and complaint and a copy of this order may be the following method(s):

a. First class to 605 Fern Street, Grayling, MI 49738.

b. Tackling or firmly affixing to the door at 605 Fern Street, Grayling, MI 49738.

c. Other: 2 week publication per court rule.

3. For each method used, proof of service must be filed promptly with the court.

Date: 4-5-04
Judge Dennis F. Murphy

-22-29-6

Notice Of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale

WHEREAS, default has been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Robert A. Donaldson and Connie T. Donaldson, Husband and wife, Mortgagees, to Benchmark Mortgage Corporation a Michigan corporation a Michigan corporation Mortgagee dated the 22nd day of April, A.D., 1998, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Crawford and State of Michigan, on the 4th day of May, A.D., 1998, in Liber 452 on Pages 488-496, and

WHEREAS, the amount claimed to be due on said mortgage as of the date of this notice is the sum of Sixty-five thousand five hundred forty-seven and 29/100 Dollars (\$65,547.29), for principal and interest and,

WHEREAS, no suit or proceedings at law or in equity have been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof, and default having been made whereby the power of sale contained in said mortgage has become operative.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage and pursuant to the statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday the 19th day of May, 2004 at 10:00 o'clock on the forenoon, local time, said mortgage will be foreclosed at the sale at public auction to the highest bidder at the front lobby of the County Building in the City of Grayling, County of Crawford and the State of Michigan (that being the place of holding Circuit Court in said County), of the premises

described in said mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due, as aforesaid, on said mortgage with the interest thereon at seven percent (7%) per annum and all legal costs, charges and expense, including the attorney fee allowed by law, and also any sums which may be paid by the undersigned, necessary to protect its interest in the premises

The premises described in said mortgage are as follows: Property situated in the Township of Grayling, County of Crawford, State of Michigan to wit:

THE SOUTHERLY 95 FEET OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 AND THE EAST 251 FEET OF THE NORTH 214.5 FEET OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, OF SECTION 17, TOWN 26 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST.

Commonly known as: 2322 Sandy Trail Road, Grayling, MI. Parcel No. 040-40-017-01-37-00

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: April 7, 2004
Benchmark Mortgage Corporation,
mortgagee

Charles A. Forrest, JR.
Attorney for Benchmark Mortgage Corp.

703E. Court St., Flint, MI 48503
Telephone: (810) 238-4030

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LEGAL ACTION

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE. IF YOU ARE IN THE MILITARY, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER LISTED BELOW.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by: Earl T Miller and Sarina K Miller, husband and wife to Amerquest Mortgage Company, a Delaware Corporation Mortgagee, dated October 21, 2003 and recorded November 3, 2003 in Liber 657 Page 215 Crawford County Records, Michigan on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars and No Cents (\$71,825.00) including interest 9.99% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front door to the County Building in Grayling, Michigan, at 10:00AM, on Wednesday, May 12, 2004.

Said premises are situated in Township of Beaver Creek, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as:

Parcel 3: A parcel of land located in the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 20, Town 25 North, Range 3 West, Beaver Creek Township, Crawford County, Michigan, as described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 20; thence South 00 degrees 08'26" West (recorded as South 00 degrees 08' 00 West) along the West section line 329.13 feet for a point of beginning; thence North 88 degrees 56'47" East, a distance of 265.45 feet; thence South 00 degrees 12'55" West, a distance of 164.59 feet, thence South 88 degrees 59'08" West, a distance of 265.24 feet; thence North 00 degrees 08'20" East (recorded as North 00 degrees 08'00"), a distance of 164.41 feet to the point of beginning.

Being the same property conveyed to Earl T. Miller and Sarina K. Miller, husband and wife by deed dated 1-21-02 and recorded 1-30-02 in Deed Book 0568, Page 449, in the Office of the Recorder of Crawford County, Michigan.

Being the same property conveyed to First National Acceptance Company by deed dated 11-14-01 and recorded 11-21-01 in Deed Book 0560, Page 616, in the Office of the Recorder of Crawford County, Michigan.

Commonly known as 9075 S Grayling Rd, Roscommon MI 48653

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: April 1, 2004
Amerquest Mortgage Company
Mortgagees: Potesivo & Associates, P.C.

36150 Dequindre Rd, Ste 810
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
(586) 795-4400 Ext 129
Our File No: 04-22892

-8-15-22-29-6

Notice Of Foreclosure Sale

Default having been made in the terms

and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Gerald J. Maher and Linda M. Maher, husband and wife, of 47322 Atwater, Chesterfield, Michigan 48047 to FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF GAYLORD, of 501 W. Main Street, P.O. Box 310, Gaylord, Michigan 49735, dated August 6, 2001 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Crawford, and State of Michigan, on August 23, 2001 in Liber 0550 Pages 291 through 299, Crawford County Records, and which, here is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal, interest and late fees, the sum of \$91,063.13

As no suit or other legal proceedings have been filed to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage; Now, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale contained in the mortgage, and pursuant to the statutes of the State of Michigan, NOTICE is hereby given that on Wednesday, the 12th day of May, 2004 at 10 o'clock a.m. the mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction to the highest bidder, at the main entrance to the County Courthouse in the City of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan, of that premises described in the mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due, on the mortgage, with interest thereon at the contract rate and all legal costs, charges and expenses, including the attorney fees allowed by law, and also any sums which may be paid by the mortgagee to protect its interest in the premises.

The premises are described as follows: Land situated in the Township of Grayling, County of Crawford, State of Michigan, described as follows:

That part of the East 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 28, Town 27 North, Range 3 West, LYING NORTH of the East Branch of the AuSable River. SUBJECT TO an easement for road purposes 20 feet wide granted across the North end of said premises.

AND All that part of the E 1/2 of the E 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 28, T27N, R3W, Lying North of the Middle line of the East Branch of the AuSable River, Grayling Township, Crawford County, Michigan.

The redemption period shall be one (1) year from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of the sale.

March 16, 2004
BODMAN, LONGLEY & DAHLING LLP

Sandra L. Jasinski (P37430)
Debt Collector for First National Bank of Gaylord
229 Court Street, P.O. Box 405
Cheboygan, MI 49721
(231) 627-4351

-25-1-8-15-22

Notice Of Foreclosure Sale

AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NOTIFY (248) 362-6100 IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain Mortgage made by Claudine K. Stocker, a married woman, of Crawford County, Michigan Mortgagee to Long Beach Mortgage Company, dated the 7th day of December, A.D. 1998, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Crawford and State of Michigan on the 10th day of March, A.D.

1999 in Liber 476, of Crawford Records, on page 352, which said mortgage was thereafter on, to-wit the 25th day of March, A.D. 2004, assigned to JP Morgan Chase Bank, formerly known as Chase Manhattan Bank, as Trustee for Asset Backed Securities Corporation Home Equity Loan Trust 1999-LB1, thru mesne assignments and recorded on April 5, 2004 in the office of Register of Deeds in Liber 667 for said County of Crawford Records, on page 144, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date of this notice, for principal and interest, the sum of \$27,618.61 (Twenty seven thousand Six hundred eighteen dollars and Sixty one cents) including interest there on at 10.99% (Ten point nine nine) percent per annum.

And no suit proceedings at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof. Now, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, and pursuant to the Statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that on the 19th day of May A.D., 2004 at 10:00 a.m. o'clock said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction, to the highest bidder, at the front door to the county building, in Grayling, Michigan, Crawford County, Michigan of the premises described in said mortgage. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Beaver Creek, in the County of Crawford and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit:

The South 1/2 of East 1/2 of West 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4, Section 17, Town 25 North, Range 3 West.

Tax ID: 050-017-015-040-00

The redemption period shall be six months from the date of sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated April 15, 2004
WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A.
Daniel Best (P-58501)
Attorney for Assignee of Mortgagee
Welman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A.
755 W. Big Beaver Road, Suite 1820
Troy, Michigan 48064
WWR#03483017
Property to be posted

-15-22-29-6

Notice Of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage bearing interest at 9.6250% per annum made by Randy A. Lingle, a married man and Debra M. Lingle his wife, joint tenants with rights of survivorship Mortgagee, to American Heritage, Inc., Mortgagee, on February 1, 2000 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Crawford, State of Michigan, on February 24, 2000 in Liber 502 of Mortgages, Page 109, and subsequently assigned to The Provident Bank on which Mortgage there is due, as of the date of this Notice, the principal sum of \$55,753.25, plus interest.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided. Notice is hereby given that on May 19, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., local time, said mortgage shall be foreclosed at sale at public auction to the highest bidder at the front door to the County Building in Grayling, County of Crawford, State of Michigan, (that being one of the places of holding Circuit Court in said County), of the premises described in said Mortgage, or some part of them.

Said premises described in said Mortgage is located in the City of Grayling, County of Crawford, State of Michigan and legally described as:

Lot 11, Block 27, Roffee's Addition to the City of Grayling, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 11, Crawford County Records.

Tax Identification No. 070-200-027-011-00

The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale; unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of such sale.

Dated: April 1, 2004
The Provident Bank
Neumann Law, P.C.
Attorneys For Mortgagee
1995 N. Cedar, Suite 4
Holt, MI 48842
(517) 699-4629

-15-22-29-6

Notice Of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale

Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Randall Keith West, a/k/a Randall K. West, and Sheri Marie West, husband and wife, of 10446 Regimental Way, Grayling, Michigan 49738-6741 to FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF GAYLORD, of 501 W. Main St, P.O. Box 310, Gaylord, Michigan 49735, dated June 5, 2000, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Crawford, and State of Michigan, on July 6, 2000 in Liber 0511 Pages 223 through 226, Crawford County Records, and which there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal, interest and late fees, the sum of \$94,203.31.

As no suit or other legal proceedings have been filed to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage; Now, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale contained in the mortgage, and pursuant to the statutes of the State of Michigan, NOTICE is hereby given that on Wednesday, the 26th day of May, 2004 at 10 o'clock a.m. the mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction to the highest bidder, at the main entrance to the County Courthouse in the City of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan, of that premises described in the mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due, on the mortgage, with interest thereon at the contract rate and all legal costs, charges and expenses, including the attorney fees allowed by law, and also any sums which may be paid by the mortgagee to protect its interest in the premises.

The premises are described as follows: Land situated in the Township of Grayling, County of Crawford, State of Michigan, described as follows:

Lots 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, Block 13 of Portage Heights, Township of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 23, Crawford County Records.

The redemption period shall be six (6)

months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the day of the sale.

Dated: April 7, 2004
Sandra L. Jasinski (P37430)
Debt Collector for First National Bank of Gaylord
229 Court Street, P.O. Box 405
Cheboygan, MI 49721
(231) 627-4351

-15-22-29-6-13

Notice Of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gary C. Cunningham, a single man, original mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., Mortgagee, dated March 22, 2002, and recorded on April 2, 2002 in Liber 575 on Page 518, in Crawford county records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Thirty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Five And 05/100 Dollars (\$38,545.05), including interest at 7.25% per annum.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF STATE-OWNED OIL AND GAS MINERALS TO BE OFFERED FOR LEASE AUCTION

Lands under consideration for oil and gas leasing include acreage in the following counties:

ALCONA, ANTRIM, ARENAC, BENZIE, CHARLEVOIX, CHEBOYGAN, CRAWFORD, GRAND TRAVERSE, KALKASKA, LAKE, MECOSTA, MIDLAND, MONTMORENCY, NEWAYGO, OCEANA, OSCEOLA, OSCODA, OTSEGO, and WEXFORD.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will offer at an oral-bid public auction, oil and gas lease rights of approximately 32,000 acres of State-owned minerals in those Michigan counties indicated herein. Registration of bidders will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 10, 2004, at the Michigan State Police Training Academy at 7426 N. Canal Road (Conference Room C1 and C2), Lansing, Michigan.

Offering of lease rights will begin at 10:00 a.m. at a minimum bid of \$13.00 per acre, and will continue until all descriptions have been offered. Additionally at the auction's end and at the option of the MDNR, parcels not bid in at \$13.00 per acre may be re-offered at a minimum bid of \$5.00 per acre.

Bids may be submitted by individuals of legal age, a partnership, corporation, or other legal entity qualified to do business in Michigan. Prospective bidders should be prepared to submit such proof at the time of registration. The total bonus bid must be paid on the same day the lease rights are bid in. Prospective bidders who do not have an established credit rating with the MDNR through prior leasing of State-owned minerals, must pay at least one-half of the TOTAL bonus bid by cash, certified check, cashier's check, or money order. A credit rating may be established by filing with MDNR/Forest, Mineral and Fire Management (FMFM)/Mineral and Land Management Section (MLMS) three letters of reference, one of which must be from a bank. In no instance will the MDNR accept "site drafts" even if noted as a "zero day site draft."

An auction catalog showing further auction particulars including a) the legal description of the lands proposed to be offered, and b) parcel classifications, is available after May 10, 2004, by contacting MDNR/FMFM/MLMS, P.O. Box 30452, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7952, telephone 517-373-7663 or on the web at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>. Written comments by interested parties relative to the classification of any description, must be received by FMFM at the address specified above NO LATER THAN May 25, 2004. Any request for change in classification will be considered by the Department prior to offering the lease rights at public auction, with final classification to be set at the sole discretion of the Director of the Department of Natural Resources.

(602-7)

PUBLIC NOTICE

MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED LAND USE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CAMP GRAYLING MANEUVER TRAINING CENTER

The Michigan Army National Guard (MIARNG) is proposing to extend the current land use management agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources until the year 2014. The original 20-year land use management agreement signed in 1984 allows limited military training on nearly 47,000 acres of state owned lands. The Proposed Action would also contain a modification to the agreement to allow firing of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) on state lands located southwest of the City of Grayling in Kalkaska and Crawford Counties.

In addition to the Proposed Action, the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates two alternatives: Extend the Current Management Agreement to 2014 with No Modifications and the No-Action Alternative which would eliminate nearly 47,000 acres of lands currently available for training.

After receipt of public comments relating to safety and noise concerns, the decision to fire the MLRS on agreement lands has been postponed and the alternative to Extend the Current Management Agreement to 2014 with No Modifications has been selected. Further research will be completed to address these issues and another EA presented if warranted and proposed in the future.

An analysis of the environmental impacts of these proposed actions is presented in a Final EA, which is available for public review and comment. Copies of the Final EA have been mailed to individuals that participated in the EA process as well as federal, state, and local agencies; interested organizations and agencies; and public libraries. Copies may be reviewed at the Camp Grayling Environmental Office, Building 30, Camp Grayling, MI 49739, during normal business hours, and at the Crawford County Library, 201 Plum St., Grayling, MI 49738. Library hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Mon. - Fri.; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat. This assessment will be available for review for 15 days from April 22 to May 7, 2004. Written comment concerning this proposal is invited.

Comments must be received no later than May 7, 2004 and addressed to Michigan Army National Guard, Attention: CPT Dancer, Public Affairs Officer, 2500 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI. 48913. Telephone calls may also be directed to CPT Dawn Dancer, Public Affairs Officer, Headquarters, Michigan Army National Guard, (517) 483-6800

SOUTH BRANCH TOWNSHIP

South Branch Township is accepting bids for survey of lots with markers in place, and streets for pioneer cemetery. There are approximately 4 acres of land to be surveyed. Bids will be opened on May 11, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. For information, please call: South Branch Township at (989) 275-8232

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF GRAYLING BUDGET HEARING

The Grayling City Council will hold a public hearing for its 2004-2005 budget on Monday, April 26, 2004 at 7:30 pm, at the Grayling City Hall at 1020 City Boulevard. All citizens are invited to attend and provide council with written and/or oral comments and ask questions concerning the city's proposed budget. The proposed budget can be inspected by the public from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday in the City Clerk's office at City Hall. Handicapped persons needing assistance should contact the city office before the meeting by calling 348-2131.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. The discussion at this public hearing will also include consideration of the proposed millage rate to be levied for the 2004-2005 tax year and the relationship of the state equalized value and the taxable value of property and the changes for same between 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. The millage rate proposed in the 2004-2005 budget is 14.8 mills for operation and 0.0 mills for debt retirement. This millage rate is exactly the same as the 2003-2004 millage rate but will result in increased revenues due to increases in state equalized values and taxable values. The City of Grayling has complete authority to set the millage rate for city operations at any level below the charter limit.

Michele Moshier
City Clerk

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR USDA SECTION 533 GRANT

The City of Grayling will apply for this grant as an initiative to assist private landlords rehabilitate rental homes in the City of Grayling. These homes must be maintained as low income rental dwellings after their rehabilitation. Landlords must follow Federal and State guidelines for non-discrimination and accessibility requirements. The City of Grayling will maintain program information at City Hall and the Grayling Housing Commission.

Michele Moshier
City Clerk

INVITATION TO BID

Camp Grayling Storm Water Outlet Storm Water Sediment Basin Grayling, Michigan

Huron Pines RC&D, Council will accept sealed bids at the Huron Pines RC&D office, 501 Norway Street, Grayling, Michigan 49738, until 1:00 P.M. local time, Wednesday, May 5, 2004 for construction of a storm water sediment basin at the Michigan National Guard - Camp Grayling, Grayling, Michigan.

The project consists of furnishing all labor, materials and equipment for the construction of a sediment basin, clearing, piping, riprap, and restoration.

The instructions to bidders and the drawings and specifications may be examined at the Huron Pines RC&D office, and also at the office of the Engineer, Northwest Design Group, Inc., 2940 Parkview Drive, Petoskey, Michigan, 49770. Bidding documents will be available on April 12, 2004 and may be purchased from the Engineer for the non-refundable fee of \$20.00 per set.

Interested contractors may contact Huron Pines at 989-348-9319 to arrange a visit to the site at Camp Grayling prior to the bid opening.

Bids must be made upon the appropriate bidding forms. All bids must be plainly marked as to their content.

No bid may be withdrawn for 60 days after the bid opening date.

Huron Pines RC&D, Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects in bids, and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of Huron Pines RC&D and Camp Grayling.

Brad Jensen, Executive Director
March 2004

FEATURES

A LOOK AT OUR PAST FROM THE PAGES OF THE AVALANCHE

23 Years Ago

April 23, 1981

DNR staffer Bill Buck shows Preservation Committee members Vid Roe, Bob Smock, Jr. and Duanne Swift what is left of the abandoned raceways and ponds at the Grayling Fish Hatchery. "We have a common interest in preserving part of Grayling's history," said Smock.

It took only one Saturday, April 17, for the demise of the Mary McEvers home on Maple Street. The Jack Millikin crew had the whole thing leveled by late afternoon. What a strange looking empty space!

Paula Dosch and Sue Diedrich, Grayling High School seniors, were among 100 students from around the country who participated in the government training program at the nation's capitol.

Bosses took their secretaries to lunch last week in recognition of National Secretary week. About 200 persons turned out at the Holiday Inn for the luncheon. Mrs. Marie Wiltse served as an emcee for the second year.

46 Years Ago

April 24, 1958

Bursting into flames with almost explosive swiftness, over 35 separate forest fires were reported in then northern part of the Lower Peninsula last Thursday as the burning index topped the 90 mark.

The two major forests of the daylight nightmare for

Conservation Officers, were in Crawford County. One in Beaver Creek Township near the southern edge of the county and the other in the county in Frederic Township.

More than 1,500 acres of forest land in Crawford County were destroyed by two raging infernos, that were brought under control Thursday evening.

The Crawford County fires near here were battled by between 300 and 400 men, one of the largest armies of fire fighters mustered in the northland in recent years.

The township dump fire last Thursday was discovered by Ted and Lacey Stephan who happened to be driving by at about the same time. Ted and Lacey, Jr., had the blaze which got away into the woods pretty well out by the time assistance arrived, and Lacey, Sr., and Bernie Fowler split a night shift watch on the dump Thursday and Friday night.

69 Years Ago

April 25, 1935

Little Larry McNamara and Sally Schram, are neighborhood playmates. Tuesday morning they were running around in the Schram yard when Sally, age 2 years, with a woman's curiosity, stopped to explore the rock garden pond, which is quite deep, when in she fell. Larry, with quick perception, ran into the Schram house and told Lucile Larson of the situation. At first

Miss Larson was unable to understand but she got the word "water" and flew for the pool and rescued little Sally who was beneath the surface of the water. Little harm was done except that Sally was simply good and wet. Larry, who is 3 years old, is now the neighborhood hero.

In line with the Avalanche's policy of giving its readers the latest and best readers will find this issue set in a brand new modern type face. The new type face was especially designed for easy reading but it is also beautiful, giving a pleasing effect to the printed page. It is known as 8 point Excelsior No. 1.

Fifteen young fellows of the Hi-Y club and their leader, Mr. Gerald Poor, were guests of Bill Joseph at his home on Wednesday.

Pipe for the new waterworks system is now being distributed and work on the ditches will begin very soon.

92 Years Ago

April 25, 1912

Olaf Michelson is a hustling auto salesman. He has sold and delivered four Jackson cars here within two weeks, three this week. John Larson's car came today.

Our local baseball team is practicing up for the coming season. All the old players have signed up with the exception of Jake Letzkus, who is holding out for a larger salary. Edgar Dyer has been unconditionally released to one of the minor leagues and will go to Gaylord to manage their

ball team.

Axel Jorgenson is a new clerk at Sorenson Bros. furniture store. James Sorenson had sold his lot on Chestnut Street to Thorkild Boeson who expects to build a residence there soon.

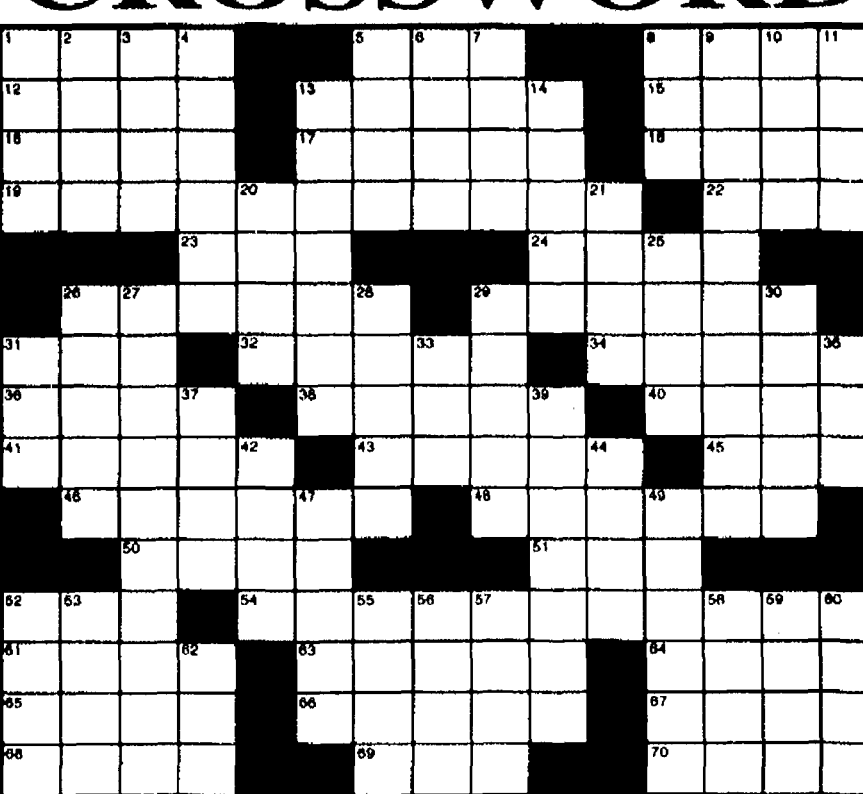
Morley Brothers of Saginaw have made their appearance and are getting the "lodge" ready for summer occupancy.

R. Hanson and son Oscar attended a special meeting of the Michigan Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association at the Hotel Ponchartrain, Detroit, last week Thursday and Friday. This meeting was principally for the establishing of a fire warden system of forest protection.

Harold Rasmussen went to Jackson last Saturday where he purchased a Model 35 Jackson five passenger auto. He was accompanied by Esbern Olson and Abe Joseph. They drove to Grayling arriving here yesterday. The boys had a pleasant trip, stopping at a number of towns and taking in the sights. Only one mishap occurred and that was when they were stuck in a deep muddy hole. They tried every which way but couldn't get out until Abe lifted the whole rear end of the auto and the wheels started tearing up mud by the bushel, piling it over the unfortunate Abe until he had to show the boys identifying cards and letters before they would really believe that it was he.

Last week R. Hanson purchased 2,500 acres of timber land from the Ward estate.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Sinks in.
5. Brassiere.
8. Sleeveless garment with buttons down the front.
12. Short for obituary.
13. Bean, Connery and Lennon.
15. Member of the Indian groups who formed an empire in Peru before the Spanish conquest.
16. Plural of serum.
17. L. Gransky, author of A Treasure Deep.
18. To fill by packing.
19. Seaplanes.
22. Acronym for Educational Testing Service.
23. Mountaintop.
24. Alternative spelling of emir.
26. Plain-woven cotton fabric used for sheets.
29. Slingy.
31. In the City, TV show starring Sarah Jessica Parker.
32. Muddled situation.
34. Tubers cultivated from the stemless plant of the arum family.
36. On the top of.
38. Metric units equal to 15,432 grains.
40. Robert Reed's role on The Brady Bunch.
41. Pre-Roman goddess of agriculture.
43. Slight opening.
45. Abbreviation for senior.
46. Fingers or toes.
48. Serious wrongdoings.
50. Capital of Norway.
51. Daryl "Chill" Mitchell's character on Ed.
52. Dhabl, a sheikdom in northern United Arab Emirates.
54. Children who tell on others.
61. Not found.
63. Drew back from.
64. Rock making up the upper layer of the earth's crust.
65. Marco, Venetian traveler.
66. Two or more kinds of the fishes of the family Scombridae.
67. Land formation in arid areas with steep walls and a relatively flat top.
68. Lone, Diane Court in Say Anything.
69. Break or opening.
70. Once more.

DOWN

1. Absurd or foolish talk.
2. To do as instructed.
3. To leer.
4. Darts suddenly from a position.
5. Saved by the TV show starring Mark-Paul Gosselaar.
6. Northern, one of New Zealand's tallest flowering trees.
7. In a short time.
8. Latin for "strength."
9. Fifth chapter of the Star Trek saga.
10. Native or inhabitant of Scotland.
11. Prepares for further manipulation.
13. Weakening or destroying insidiously.
14. To act in an underhanded way.
20. Makes unctuous.
21. To have been attacked with deadly effect.
25. Officiating priest of a mosque.
26. Doled out.
27. With affectionate submission.
28. Slang for government officials who enforce narcotics laws.
29. Waxy solid used in the manufacture of candles.
30. Unites or joins.
31. Acronym for Strategic Air Command.
33. Country, movie starring James Stewart.
35. Abbreviation for senator.
37. Square TV show starring Sarah Jessica Parker.
39. Diatribes.
42. Soil carried by moving water and deposited as sediment.
44. Short, pleated skirt worn by Scottish Highlanders.
47. To heat thoroughly by a fire.
49. Foreboding influence.
52. High mountains.
53. The Bible.
55. Cruel or vicious robber.
56. Yollers, Jennifer Keaton on Family Ties.
57. To spring through the air.
58. Another name for the spleen.
59. Freedom from difficulty.
60. Salad made of raw cabbage with a mayonnaise dressing.
62. Digit on the human foot.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK



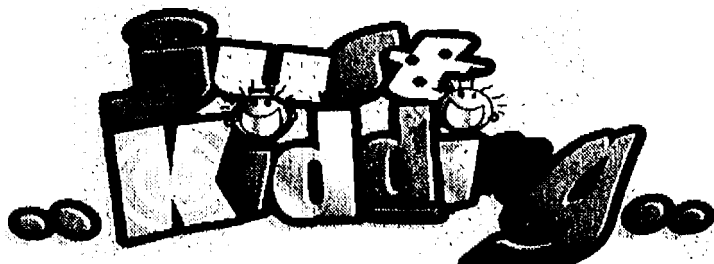
Roast Chicken And Supersweet Corn

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper, divided
- 4 large zucchini, quartered
- 2 large sweet onions, quartered
- 4 large ears fresh supersweet corn, husked and quartered
- 8 green onions (scallions)
- 4 chicken legs and/or thighs

Preheat oven to 425°F. In a cup, combine oil, thyme, 3/4 teaspoon of the salt and 1/4 teaspoon of the pepper. In a large shallow pan, toss squash and

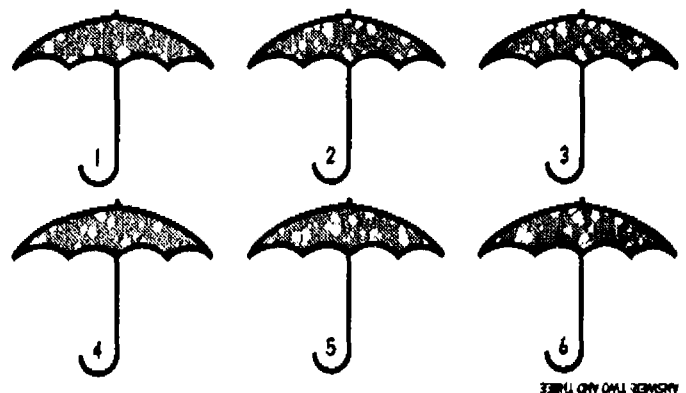
onions with half of the seasoned oil. In a bowl, coat corn and green onions with remaining seasoned oil; set aside. On a rack in a broiler pan, place chicken; sprinkle with remaining 3/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Place pan with squash and onion on lower rack and chicken on upper rack. Roast for 25 minutes, turning vegetables and chicken occasionally. Add corn and green onions to pan with vegetables. Roast until chicken is cooked through and vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes. YIELD: 4 portions

ANSWERS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS



FIND THE TWINS

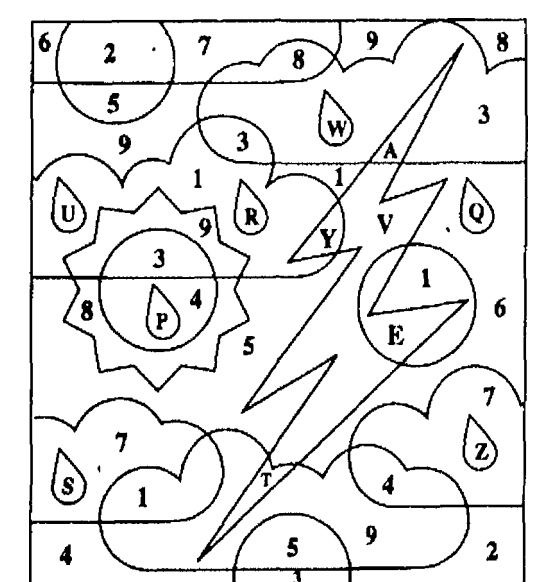
WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



DID YOU KNOW ??

The Eiffel Tower in Paris weighs over 1000 Elephants.

HIDDEN PICTURE



Color in each space that contains a letter.

ADOPT A PET



Girl is approximately 3 years old. She is a Blue Tick Coonhound. Girl is very gentle and gets along well with other dogs. She has been spayed, heartworm tested, and has all of her vaccinations. No cats. Don't forget to have your dog tested for heartworm and put him or her on a preventative vaccine. It could be a life-saver! For more information on any of our pets that are up for adoption, please visit our website at: www.ascspetfinder.com

There are still enough months remaining in the year to warrant buying a 2004 Pet Calendars for a donation of only \$5 each! The calendar is colorful and has the right sized date squares to log all of your important dates. We think the calendar will make a great affordable gift for anyone of any age. Also, we still have about 20 Creature Comfort Cookbooks. Buy one for a donation of only \$15. Stop by the Avalanche or the Shelter to purchase one (or both) of these great fund-raiser items. Cookbooks are also available at Riverland Gear and the Medicine Shoppe in Grayling. All proceeds go to the shelter.

The Animal Shelter of Crawford County is located at:
508 1/2 Huron Street (M-72 East) in Grayling
Between the Road Commission and the Eagles Hall
Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. and Holidays 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
After hour appointments available. Call (989) 348-4117

WEATHER

Courtesy of the City of Grayling

Last Week				Extended Forecast					
Date	H	L	Rain	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
4/14	49	28	0	52	30	54	32	56	34
4/15	57	27	0	54	32	56	34	58	36
4/16	64	32	T	56	34	58	36	60	38
4/17	76	46	0.20	58	36	60	38	62	40
4/18	66	42	0.58	60	38	62	40	64	42
4/19	77	42	0.31	62	40	64	42	66	44
4/20	66	34	0.04	64	42	66	44	68	46
				Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy

HOROSCOPES

For the Week of April 22, 2004

Capricorn
December 22 - January 19

You're feeling sluggish lately. Don't fret—motivation will come from an unlikely source. A letter perplexes you.

Aries
March 21 - April 19

You're pushed beyond your limits. Step back, regroup and then move forward. Get ready for some houseguests.

Cancer
June 22 - July 22

Travel is in your forecast. Make the most of it. An old friend makes a proposal. Give it some thought before giving them an answer.

Libra
September 23 - October 22

Drama queens annoy you. Before you speak to one at work, consider how it would affect your relationship with your coworkers. You don't need more enemies.

Taurus
April 20 - May 20

Children are drawn to you at a family event. You understand them, and they bring out the best in you. A situation at work gets stickier.

Leo
July 23 - August 22

Chaos is taking over your life. Put a stop to it now and get back on track. A telephone call results in a flurry of activity.

Scorpio
October 23 - November 21

You discover a young friend has a crush on you. Approach the matter carefully—you don't want to break their heart.

Aquarius
November 22 - December 21

You like to network. Your coworker, however, doesn't give you a hard time. Ignore them. You're about to be rewarded for your valuable list of contacts.

Pisces
January 19 - February 18

A problem is brewing at home. Look within for answers. An associate experiences a setback. Only you can help.

Gemini
May 21 - June 21

Rumors are flying at work. Don't get sucked in. Turn your attention to the project at hand and stay clear of all the chatter.

Virgo
August 23 - September 22

A dream motivates you to change your life. Start with something small and then move to bigger things. A relative needs some advice.

ADVERTISING CLASSIFIED

Classifieds must be paid for in advance

Display Advertising Rate - \$6.90 per column inch

Deadline for Display Classifieds - 12 noon, Monday

Classifieds by the word rate - \$5.00 for 15 words or

less, 10¢ per each additional word; includes Internet listing:

www.townnews.com/avalanche/

Classified by the word deadline - 12 noon, Tuesday

Crawford County Avalanche

1. Real Estate

NEW CUSTOM BUILT HOME on 2.25 acres, ranch, three bedroom, two bath, 28 x 28 garage, custom oak cabinets throughout, oak flooring, ceramic, cathedral ceiling, Anderson windows, close to holy waters of AuSable River, must see for \$140,000. 348-5372. (-LR6/17/04/1)

FREE APPLIANCES & free drafting - sign a contract between March 1st & May 31st, 2004 to build a new home & receive a \$1000.00 toward appliances plus free drafting of your new home. Call DeShano Construction Company at 1-800-234-0800. (-8-15-22/1)

2 BEDROOM HOUSE in Frederic \$50,000 732-4227. (-22-29/1)

1. Real Estate

THINK SPRING! Start planning now for your new home - models open for viewing. Call 1-866-EZ BUILT (392-8458). Located at 4622 Young Road in Grayling Industrial Park. (-22-29-6/1)

3 BEDROOM, 1 BATH 2 1/2 acres, 2 car garage, storage shed, nice big yard, perfect up north retreat, 7 miles from Grayling. \$75,000 (989) 344-7669 1-800-848-1268 (1/8/04/tf/1)

MANY NORTHERN MICHIGAN Properties www.century21grayling.com (1/7/99/tf/1)

0 DOWN payment under \$500 mo. P&I on selected 3BR, 2 bath models inc. lot. Call AuSable Valley Homes, 989-344-0424. (-1-8-15-22/1)

1. Real Estate

QUALITY BUILT 3 BED-ROOM 2 bath home with attached, heated, 2-car garage. Amenities include oak flooring, wiring for surround sound, heated tile floors in bathrooms, deck and storage shed. Located at 3151 Jones Lake Rd., in AuSable Woods - includes use of clubhouse and pool. \$119,000 (989)348-3587 owners motivated to sell! (-15-22-29-6/1)

NEW NEW NEW JJ's Auto Glass, a division of JJ's Motor Mall. Complete auto glass service. Deductibles waived up to \$125, stone chips fixed, windshield repair and replacement, stop in for a free estimate. JJ's Auto Glass, across from Skip's, M-72 West, (989) 348-7710. (4/15/04/tf/1)

1. Real Estate

NEW THREE BEDROOM, one bath with two car attached garage, 20 ft. concrete approach, sidewalks, 4" well, 90% furnace, grassed, newly stick built. Five miles east of Grayling on McCarty Drive. \$87,000. (989) 348-4840 (-8-15-22-29-6/1)

IT'S SPRING HOME improvement time at Great Lakes Mortgage, \$200 off any mortgage loan closed before June 1, 2004. Call (989) 348-7500 or stop by 501 N. James Street in Grayling. (-15-22-29/1)

FOR SALE BY OWNER 4 bedroom, 3 bath ranch home with full finished walkout basement, attached 2 car garage with utility room and breezeway, wrap around deck on approx 2 1/2 acres. 348-1545. (-22-29/1)

1. Real Estate

RETAIL OFFICE SPACE for sale or lease. Up to 3,000 square ft. available on North Business Loop. Up to 1,900 square ft. basement storage available. Will remodel to suit. 941-391-0312. (-8-15-22/1)

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH with full basement on 5 acres of old farm land. 3 outbuildings, 30 X 36 barn with loft. \$95,900 call 231-275-3138. (-15-22/1)

AUSABLE RIVER HOME for sale with 338' of beautiful frontage. 1414 Ole Dam Rd. Grayling. \$189,000. Call 989-348-9415 for more information. (-22-29/1)

BUILDING LOTS NEAR TOWN natural gas available. 348-6938. (4/15/04/tf/1)

1. Real Estate

FIVE BEDROOM Completely remodeled 1,800 sq. ft. 210 Mikado St. Two baths all new, roof, siding, windows, doors, drywall, kitchen, baths, plumbing, electric, 90 percent efficient furnace, carpet, floor covering, interior doors, cabinets, finished back porch, extra lot. Priced to sell at \$123,000. Call owner (989) 348-4716. (1/15/04/tf/1)

HOUSE FOR SALE 162 Roberts Road. Three bedroom ranch, full basement partially finished, carport, 24 x 30 deck, great neighborhood, 1.5 miles from town, close to all schools. \$64,999. (989) 348-9703 (1/8/04/tf/1)

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATHS, 1 car garage, storage shed, big yard, close to town. Must see to appreciate. \$91,900. Call 989-889-5101. (4/1/04/tf/1)

FOR SALE BY OWNER 3 bedroom ranch style, big garage and breezeway attached. Karen Woods subdivision. Price reduced to \$121,000. 6152 Sam Road (989)348-2431 or (906)477-6861. (-15-22-29-6-13-20-27/1)

2a. Want To Rent

WANTED TO RENT, cabin for snowmobiling Jan, Feb, March 2005. Must allow mature dog. Will pay extra deposit. 260-833-6058. (-22-29-6-13/2a)

2. For Rent

CABINS AND MOBILE HOMES at Lost Acres, one-bedroom cabins for rent for \$375, including all utilities, plus \$200 security. (2) Two bedroom mobile homes, older, clean, only \$375, plus \$400 security and utilities. Units are located on 30 wooded acres, from 11004-11010 N. Old U.S. 27, three miles south of Waters. Walk to Blue Gill Lake. Call Leo toll free at 877-277-6976 or at 586-216-0682. Sorry no pets allowed. (2/19/04/tf/2)

RIVERVIEW SENIOR APARTMENTS at 306 Knight Street is updating the waiting list for one and two bedroom units. Persons must be 62 years of age or older or handicap and/or disabled of any age. Rent is based on income with limited rent subsidy. barrier free unit in building. Applications on site or call Linda at 1-800-225-7982. Managed by Stratford Group Ltd., 442 W. Baldwin, Alpena, MI 49707. Equal Housing Opportunity. Hearing TDD #1-800-855-1155. (-22-29/2)

1. Real Estate

Go With The Winning Team!



Randy Thompson
Broker / Owner



Connie Winans
Associate Broker



Scott Hanson
Sales Agent



Bob Pollock
Associate Broker



Bill Borchers
Sales Agent



Randall Hartley
Sales Agent



Jerry Goanell
Associate Broker



Casey Thompson
Sales Agent



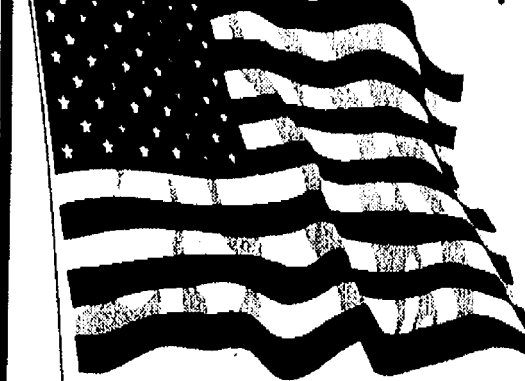
Vicki Harrington
Sales Agent

Special Feature!



This cozy and inviting 4 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath home offers year round recreation, deeded access to the Manistee River, many updates: new kitchen cabinets, new kitchen & dining room drywall, new carpet in the kitchen and dining and family room. #5233 \$83,500

Proud To Be American!



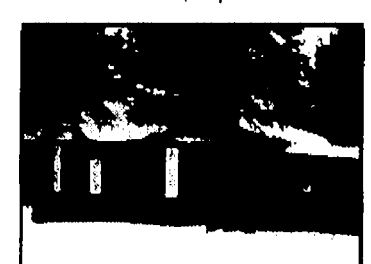
Beautiful, big, roomy, home located in the city limits. Some features are: country kitchen, hardwood floor, new carpet, french doors, abundant ceiling fans, ceramic tile floors, mud room, 2 1/2 baths, photographic darkroom and full finished basement. #5227 \$82,500



Spotless three bedroom, two bath Ranch with a walk-out basement, central air and attached garage, 2 decks, one is assessable from the master suite. This home has an open floor plan and it is located very close to town. #5189 \$129,000



Very well maintained 2 BR, 1 bath mobile in Bear Lake Township. Situated across from Cub Lake with views right around the corner from all sports Bear Lake and close to the Blue Bear trails #5165 \$54,500



Cozy, solid and clean, 2 bedroom cottage built in 1997 has a neat location adjoining river property owner by association. Also: 10x19 screened in porch, storage building, wood burning stove & some furniture to stay. #5266 \$68,000



Affordable 3 bedroom home just minutes from town. This home is in a perfect location, near state land, the East Branch of the AuSable River and around the corner from a snowmobile trail head. Perfect for that recreational get away or full time residence. #5247 \$98,000



Country Setting well maintained 3 Bedroom Home, 12x22 Heated all glass sunroom and a large 24x38 Garage with double doors. Only two miles from the South Branch of the AuSable River and lots of state land to enjoy #5183 \$97,900



Situated on 5 acres this 1900 SF home with 3 to 4 bedrooms, living room and family room, ceramic flooring in kitchen, plenty of remodeling has been done. 28 x 32, 2 story barn and circle drive. #5094 \$99,900



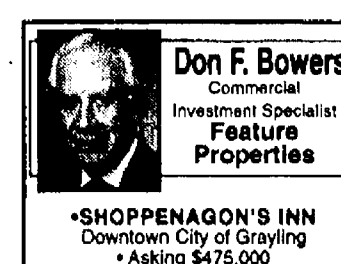
Adjoining state land is this quality 3 bedroom, 3 bath home. Features: hardwood floors throughout the kitchen, dining and breakfast nook; gas log fireplace in family room; large master bedroom suite with sunny sitting area and full bath; two car garage, 24x40 pole barn; large back deck and covered porch in front. #5138 \$184,000



Nicely maintained 3 BR home has a large 20x22 living room and has had many updates to the home within the past few years; to include new floor covering and drywall. #5045 \$73,500



Well maintained spotlessly clean chalet in Warbler's Hideaway. Close to outdoor swimming pool and club house. 3 bedrooms and 1 bath, attached garage, sits on 2 lots with easy access to paved county maintained road. #5136 \$75,000



Don F. Bowers
Commercial
Investment Specialist
Feature Properties
•SHOPPENAGON'S INN
Downtown City of Grayling
•Asking \$475,000
•FORMERLY ERNIE'S
FLEA MARKET
15854 West M-72 - 300' Frontage
(2) Commercial Buildings
•Asking \$199,500
•SEVEN (2) ACRE PARCELS
Commercial Park
•Starting at \$27,500 - Kalkaska
•COMMERCIAL BUILDING
•Reduced to \$70,000

EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED.

Century 21 1-888-324-6568
Mortgage We'll beat any lender's price or pay you \$500*



RIVER COUNTRY REAL ESTATE, INC

2375 South I-75 Business Loop (Next to K-Mart) • Grayling, Michigan 49738

www.century21grayling.com



Office 348-5474
Fax 348-4420

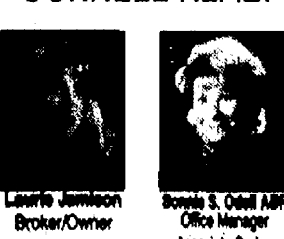
COLDWELL BANKER

I-75 Business Loop

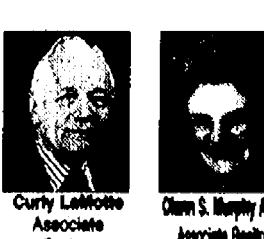
(South)-Grayling

989-348-6481 • 800-300-6653

CORNELL REALTY



Laurie Johnson
Broker/Owner



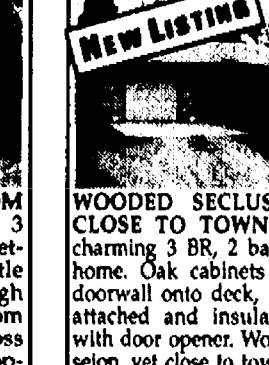
Dennis S. O'Neil
Office Manager

NEW LISTING



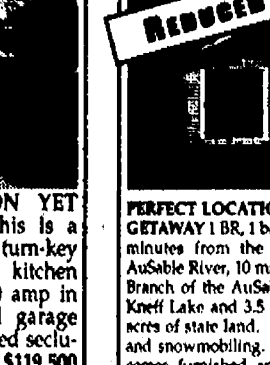
GETAWAY JUST 97' FROM MANISTEE RIVER Great 3 BR, 1 1/2 bath weekend getaway! 5 acres with Rattle Snake Creek running through property and just 97 feet from the Manistee River across state land which adjoins property. \$89,900 #231743

NEW LISTING



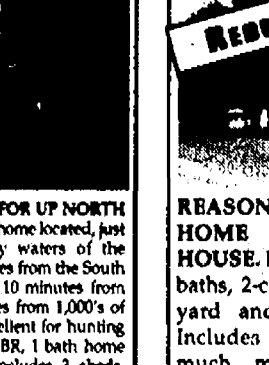
WOODED SECLUSION YET CLOSE TO TOWN This is a charming 3 BR, 2 bath turn-key home. Oak cabinets in kitchen doorwall onto deck, 200 amp in attached and insulated garage with door opener. Wooded seclusion, yet close to town. \$119,500 #231731

REDUCED



PERFECT LOCATION FOR UP NORTH GETAWAY 1 BR, 1 bath home located, just minutes from the holy waters of the AuSable River, 10 minutes from the South Branch of the AuSable, 10 minutes from Kreef Lake and 3.5 miles from 1,000's of acres of state land. Excellent for hunting and snowmobiling. 1 BR, 1 bath home comes furnished and includes 3 sheds. \$57,900 #231690

REDUCED



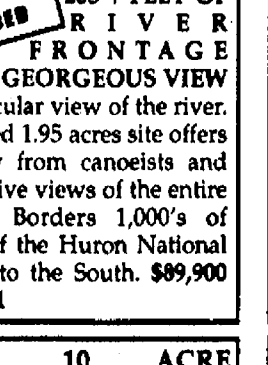
REASONABLY PRICED HOME WITH GUEST HOUSE. Priced to sell!!! 3 BR, 2 baths, 2-car garage, large back yard and basket ball slab. Includes guest house, and much, much more. \$89,900 #231075

REDUCED



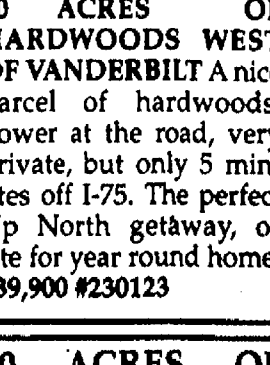
MOBILE WITH UPDATES This well cared for 2 BR, 1 bath mobile has never cedar 1/2 log in master suite, pine tongue & groove in the living room, and newer drywall/oak wainscoting in the kitchen and dining room. Lots of built-ins, fenced back yard, new 12'x18' A-frame built shed with drive through and smaller shed for wood storage. A/C is installed but not hooked up. \$39,900 #22995

REDUCED



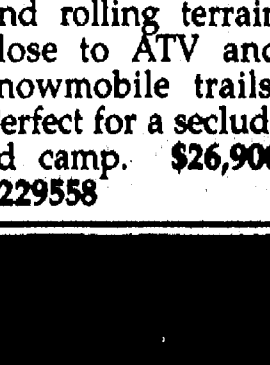
GORGEOUS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY IN HOUGHTON LAKE This luxurious commercial building has a lot to offer: 8 acres, 2 offices or bedrooms, 3 full baths, appliances, 3 car garage. Enjoy the view from a 5'x15' fireplace, newer hardwood floor, newer carpet and gorgeous stairs and hardwood steps. Comes furnished and offers a nice sized pond. Located across from the Comfort Suites on Old 27. \$89,900 #229713

VACANT LAND



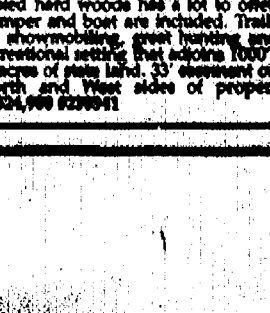
10 ACRES OF HARDWOODS WEST OF VANDERBILT A nice parcel of hardwoods. Power at the road, very private, but only 5 minutes up North getaway, or site for year round home. \$39,900 #230123

REDUCED



NICE 10 ACRE PARCELS with state land only 1/4 mile away. A great spot for a cabin, home, or just a camping site. Lots of deer in the area and 90% wooded. Land Contract Possible. \$24,000 & \$25,400 #222624-222637

REDUCED



BEAUTIFUL WOOD-ED PARCELS 10 acre parcel with rolling terrain and a variety of hardwoods. Electric is adjacent. A beautiful setting that would be ideal to hunt, camp on or build a cabin. \$28,500 #228899

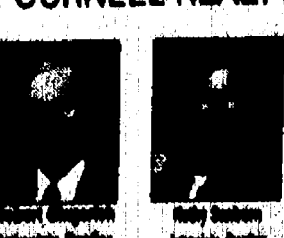
COLDWELL BANKER

10061 M-72 SE

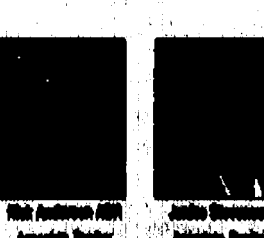
Kalkaska MI 49846

231-258-7945 • 800-798-7945

CORNELL REALTY

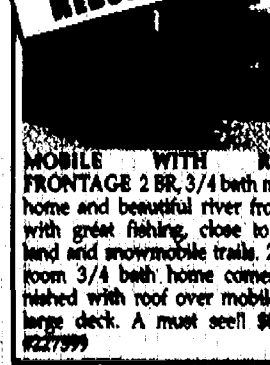


Robert Campbell
Associate Realtor



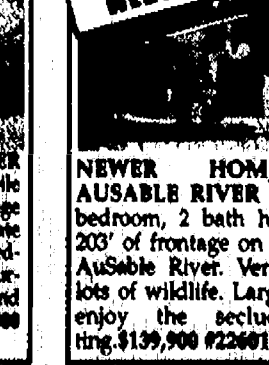
Bob Davidson
Associate Realtor

REDUCED



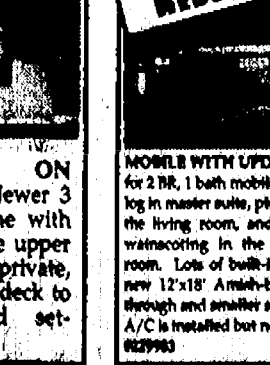
MOBILE WITH RIVER FRONTAGE 2 BR, 3/4 bath mobile home and beautiful river frontage with great fishing, close to state land and snowmobile trails. 2 bedroom 3/4 bath home comes furnished with roof over mobile and large deck. A must see! \$99,900 #22797

REDUCED



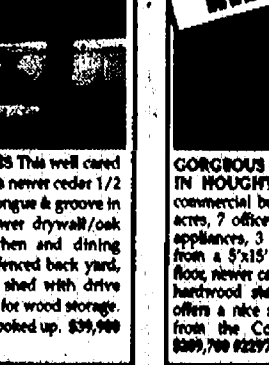
NEWER HOME ON AUSABLE RIVER Newer 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with 203' of frontage on the upper AuSable River. Very private, lots of wildlife. Large deck to enjoy the secluded setting. \$139,900 #224011

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NICE ACREAGE FOR OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST For great hunting and outdoor enjoyment, this 3.56 acre of land, hard woods, has a lot to offer. Camper and boat are included. Truly a recreational setting that allows you to enjoy the outdoors. 33' segment on 1/4 acre of state land. 33' segment on 1/4 acre of state land. \$24,000 #228899

VACATION CABIN ON AUSA-
BLE River for rent completely
 furnished. One room, sleeps four.
 Great fishing. Available May 1st,
 for rates call 989-348-8350.
 (4/15/04tf/2)

12X60 MOBILE HOME 1 1/2
 bedrooms. Ideal for two. \$450
 per month, \$250 security, does
 not include utilities. With garage.
 348-8468. (-22/2)

NICE, CLEAN TWO BED-
ROOM mobile home with washer-
 dryer and appliances. \$425
 month plus deposit. No pets.
 348-2418. (-25-1-8-15-22-29/2)

TWO BEDROOM DUPLEX
 \$425.00. 348-5230. (-15-22/2)

SMALL 1 BEDROOM HOME
 on Margrethe Blvd, near
 Grayling. \$425 plus deposit and
 utilities. Call 989-224-1815. (-
 22-29/2)

FOR LEASE COMMERCIAL
 Building. Approximately 4,000
 ft, great retail location at light on
 M-72 West and 93. Call for
 details. (989) 348-8659
 (11/20/03tf/2)

SMALL HOUSE near east side
 of Higgins Lake. \$400 a month
 plus security deposit & utilities
 989-821-5995. (-15-22/2)

1-2 BEDROOM upstairs apart-
 ment, downtown Grayling. No
 smoking, no pets. 1 year lease,
 credit reference and security
 deposit. \$375 a month plus utili-
 ties. Available May 1st. Send
 inquiries with references to P.O.
 Box 280, Grayling, MI 49738.
 (4/15/04tf/2)

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY
 house rentals near Roscommon,
 Grayling, Higgins Lake and
 Houghton Lake. Higgins North
 Cottage Rentals. (989) 821-3434
 (12/25/03tf/2)

TWO BEDROOM HOUSE
 Newly remodeled, 308 Brink
 Street. \$475.00 mo, 475.00 secu-
 rity deposit. Range, refrig., inc,
 washer and dryer connections.
 Tool shed, 2 lots. No pets, avail-
 able May 1, 989-348-4716.
 (4/22/2004tf/2)

BEAUTIFUL PROFESSION-
AL OFFICE SETTING 561 sq
 feet (18.3' x 30.8') in newly ren-
 ovated log building; excellent
 location; call owner (231)946-
 0070. (-15-22-29-6/2)

3. Employment
CHAIR-SIDE DENTAL
ASSISTANT needed part-time
 for growing practice. Send
 resume to 234 E Michigan
 Avenue, Grayling, 49738 by May
 5th. (SGF-22-29/3)

NURSING ASSISTANTS
 accepting application for State
 Certified Care Givers. Duties
 include assisting others with all
 activities of daily living. Team
 player. Apply at Grayling
 Nursing Centre 331 Meadows
 Dr., Grayling. (-15-22/3)

KING NURSING CENTRE is
 looking for a Registered Nurse to
 work part time every other week-
 end. Join the team at a pleasant
 skilled nursing facility. Cal 989-
 422-5153, or stop in to fill out an
 application at 2280 Tower Hill
 Road, Houghton Lake, or fax
 your resume to 989-422-6721. (-
 22-29/3)

TWO PHYSICIAN, ORTHO-
PEDIC PRACTICE looking for
 office manager. Experience a
 must. Knowledge of medical
 billing and front desk. Clinical
 experience a plus. Please send
 resume to Office Manager
 Position, PO Box 463, Grayling,
 MI 49738 or fax (989)348-0494.
 (-15-22-29/3)

MARINE MECHANIC
NEEDED Mercury certified prefer-
 red. Please call 989-821-6549
 or 989-429-2761. (-8-15-22/3)

2004 PRODUCTION SEASON
 assembly starting wage \$7.50.
 Carlisle Paddles, a Johnson
 Outdoors company, is accepting
 applications thru April 30, 2004
 for the summer production sea-
 son (now thru approx. July
 2004). We seek dependable,
 team-orientated individuals for
 seasonal assembly positions (40
 hours/week). Positions require
 attention to detail, eye-hand coor-
 dination and the ability to main-
 tain a fast work pace and learn
 quickly. Pre-employment drug
 screen required. Qualified appli-
 cants should apply in person at
 4562 N. Downriver Road in
 Grayling, MI...EOE. (-22/3)

SATELLITE INSTALLERS
 needed, no experience necessary.
 Will train right applicant. \$10 to
 start. Good driving record a must.
 Call 989-344-0772 for interview.
 (-22-29-6/3)

LAUNDRY AIDE/HOUSE-
KEEPER position, part time.
 Looking for someone with good
 work record, dedicated and
 dependable. Apply in person at
 Grayling Nursing Centre 331
 Meadows Dr. Grayling. (-15-
 22/3)

COUNTER AND DATA
ENTRY position, part-time, sea-
 sonal. Computer experience and
 appliance knowledge preferred.
 Apply in person at Grayling
 Hometown Maytag Home
 Appliance Store 6840 W M-72,
 Grayling. See Tracy. (-22-29/3)

ATTENTION: Work from
 home. \$500 - \$1,500 P/T, \$2,000
 - \$4,500 F/T 1-800-304-2936
 Success@AGreatIncome.com.
 (LR4/29/04/3)

INSURANCE INSPECTOR
 (part time). Need independent
 contractor to cover Crawford,
 Otsego, Kalkaska, Antrim. Must
 have dependable car. Internet and
 digital cam helpful. Write:
 Insurance, 24469 Greenfield,
 Southfield, MI 48075. (-15-22/3)

TWO, ONE YEAR full time
 VISTA AmeriCorps positions
 available in partnership with the
 Volunteer Center of Otsego
 County and Big Brothers Big
 Sisters. The VISTA employee
 will support mentoring programs
 in Otsego and Crawford
 Counties. Position offers stipend,
 health insurance, child care, and
 education award. Program focus
 is the development of community
 based monitoring, recruitment of
 volunteer mentors, and increas-
 ing public awareness about men-
 toring opportunities. Experience
 in community development, col-
 laboration, communication,
 assessment and marketing skills
 desired. Send resume to:
 Volunteer Center, P.O. Box 1933,
 Gaylord, MI 49734 by April 30,
 2004. Call (989)705-8584 for
 more information. (-22-29/3)

NEEDED: 28 people to lose up
 to 30 lbs. In the next 30 days!
 100% natural. 100% guaranteed!
 No ephedra! Call Carol 1-888-
 228-9539 or visit www.health-
 wellbeing.com (-22/3)

HELP WANTED must be able
 to work weekends, must be 18
 years old, at Jim's Farm Market.
 Call 344-2803 after 10am. (-22-
 29/3)

KITCHEN HELP WANTED
 Apply in person. Gates AuSable
 Lodge 471 Stephan Bridge Road.
 Seasonal position, flexibility a
 must. (-22/3)

PRIOR MILITARY MEM-
BERS WANTED from all
 branches of the services. The
 Michigan Army National Guard
 wants your expertise & proven
 military experience. We have
 cash bonuses available for many
 prior military members. You
 additionally will receive many of
 the benefits you enjoyed while on
 active duty or as a reserve forces
 member. The National Guard will
 even give you the option of
 retaining your former military
 skill or you may reclassify in one
 of over hundred different special-
 ities. Continue your service with
 the Guard by calling your local
 recruiter at 989-348-5397. (-8-
 15-22-29-6/3)

RN & LPN'S we have an open-
 ing in our Nursing Department
 for a Charge Nurse. The right
 individual must possess the abil-
 ity to mix nursing skills with peo-
 ple skills. Excellent working
 environment. Apply today for an
 opportunity to join our great team
 of care givers. Grayling Nursing
 Centre, 331 Meadows Dr.,
 Grayling, MI. (-15-22/3)

46TH CIRCUIT TRIAL
COURT, Friend of the Court
 office has an opening for a case
 management position for
 Crawford County. A bachelor's
 degree is required. Full job
 description and salary informa-
 tion available at the Friend of the
 Court office. Submit letter of
 interest, resume and references to
 Amy Neubecker, Assistant
 Friend of the Court, 1029
 Gornick Avenue, Gaylord,
 Michigan 49735 or fax to
 (989)732-8646 by 4:00 pm on
 April 28, 2004. (-22/3)

UP TO \$1380 WEEKLY staff
 envelopes at home FT/PT. No
 experience necessary! \$50 cash
 hiring bonus!! Guaranteed in
 writing!!! call 352-435-3305. (-
 22/3)

CDL CLASS A or B route driv-
 ers wanted. Daily medium to
 heavy labor involved. Seasonal
 work - summers may include
 part-time in winter. Good wages,
 health insurance available.
 Northern Pure Ice Co., 427 S. I-
 75 Business Loop, Grayling, MI
 49738. Apply in person. (-22-
 29/3)

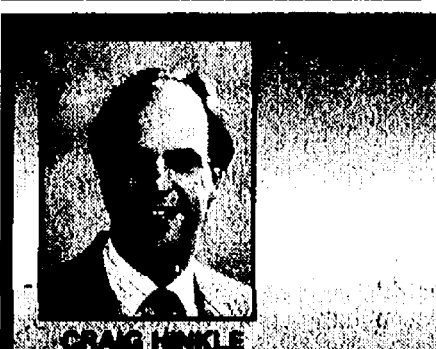
IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!
 Full-time and contingent RNs.
 We offer an incredible benefit
 and competitive pay package that
 must be seen to be believed for
 full time and an incentive pro-
 gram for contingent RNs. Excel-
 lent wages/mileage reim-
 bursement. Qualifications:
 Homecare experience preferred
 with well-developed assessment
 skills. We utilize an automated
 documentation system, experi-
 ence with this a plus. Candidate
 must be a graduate from an
 accredited school and have a cur-
 rent Michigan license. Requires a
 minimum of 1 year of profession-
 al nursing experience. ability to
 assess and act upon client needs
 without direct supervision. Some
 on-call responsibility for full
 time position. Contact: Maureen
 Hayes, PSM 201 Meadows Dr.,
 Suite A, Grayling, MI 49738.
 Call (800)424-1457 or fax
 resume to: (989)348-0046.
 Mercy Amicare Homecare &
 Hospice is committed to the
 Mission and Values as set forth
 by Trinity Health. Mercy
 Amicare is committed to achiev-
 ing workforce diversity and is an
 equal opportunity employer. (-
 22/3)

TRANSPORT DRIVER
NEEDED - must have excellent
 driving record. This position is
 full time/part time depending on
 time of year. This position would
 be good for someone who is
 retired and looking for something
 to do. Must have a Class A CDL.
 No hazmat required. Please call
 989-344-2088 or 800-922-1390
 for more information. (-22-29/3)

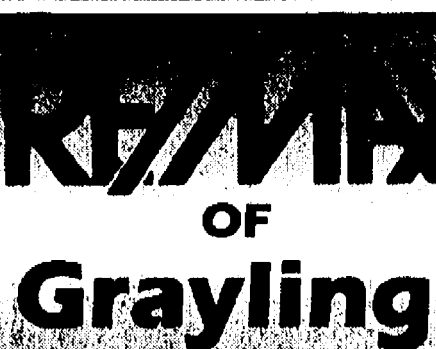
EVERGREEN PARTY
STORE cashiers needed for
 summer. 18 and older. (989)821-
 5425. (-22-29/3)

AVALANCHE OFFICE
HOURS: Monday through
 Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 102
 Michigan Avenue, Grayling -
 (989) 348-6811

1. Real Estate



1. Real Estate



1. Real Estate



Custom ranch ONLY 3 YEARS NEW! 13.3 acres.
 Very secluded setting with long circle drive. Vinyl
 decking and rails. Finished/finished 3 car garage.
 Six panel doors. 9 ft. French doors onto deck.
 Vaulted ceiling with 3 remote skylights. 5 piece mas-
 ter bath. Extensive ceramic tile and Berber carpet.
 Custom light fixtures. Infloor H/W heat. Screen
 porch off Master B/R suite. Septic and water hook-
 ups for RV. Include riding snow blower and plow
 and lawn mower. CH-1822 \$249,500



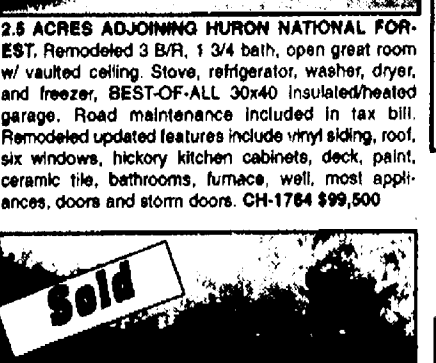
QUALITY BUILT TOWNHOUSE IN DESIRABLE VILAGE
 Spacious 1248 sq. ft. 2 B/R, 2 bath, double Anderson Windows and
 door wall onto patio, central A/C, breakfast room, all appliances includ-
 ed, formal entry, large living room, drywall interior, spotless move in
 condition. 16 x 24 attached heated and finished garage. Backdrop
 drive, sprinkling system. Beautiful secluded setting, located just out-
 side city limits. Master B/R suite w/ walk-in closet, full bathroom.
 Amenities provided: a grass/shrub trimming, snow removal, garbage
 pick-up. Excellent Opportunity. Ask for condo buyers. Seller is a
 licensed Real Estate Broker in the State of Michigan. CH-1887
 \$177,900



2.5 ACRES ADJOINING HURON NATIONAL FOR-
 EST. Remodeled 3 B/R, 1 3/4 bath, open great room
 w/ vaulted ceiling. Stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer,
 and freezer. BEST-OF-ALL 30x40 Insulated/heated
 garage. Road maintenance included in tax bill.
 Remodeled updated features include vinyl siding, roof,
 six windows, hickory kitchen cabinets, deck, paint,
 ceramic tile, bedrooms, furnace, central air, appli-
 ances, doors and storm doors. CH-1764 \$99,500



CLEAN, COZY, NEW! Imagine 30.7 acres of wooded
 privacy. All 1/4 mile from AuSable State Forest.
 Hantley River, snowmobile trails and excellent hunt-
 ing. Freshly renovated. Current owner just complet-
 ed finishing 1980 shell, metal roof, vinyl siding, pole
 barn. 6 inch, 237 foot well. 2 B/R plus Loft. New
 kitchen & bath. Modern interior, including furniture
 and offers immediate occupancy. \$139,000 CH-1880



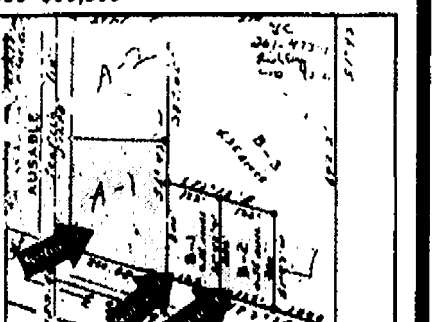
LAKE MARGRETHE COTTAGE! 2 B/R, 1 bath
 cottage offers large living room with brick fire-
 place. Attached 2 car garage with 2 workshops.
 1900 acre all sports lake (Lake Margrethe) offers
 sandy bottom, spring feed, great swimming, fish-
 ing and boating. Appliances include stove, refrig-
 erator, washer and dryer. Cottage is in need of
 repairs but has a lot of potential. 2 decks (front
 and back). CC-1912 \$299,999



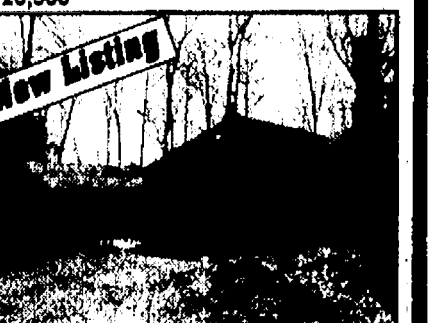
3 Bedroom, 2 bath home offers 1055 square feet
 and detached garage. In the village of
 Roscommon. Sits at end of a semi private road.
 Property also includes a cabin that is currently
 being rented out. Great Investment Property.
 Roscommon area. \$82,900.00 CS-1852



A 15 ACRE RETREAT FOR ALL SEA-
 SONS Chalet with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths.
 Open floor plan with Pergo floors down-
 stairs. Kitchen offers quality oak cabinets
 and snack bar. Vinyl thermo windows, dry-
 wall throughout. Brick fireplace in living
 room. Outside water and electric. Gravel
 drive. County maintained Road. CS-
 1800 \$99,500



505 FEET OF PRIME COMMERCIAL
 FRONTAGE ON M-72 WEST! Cleared
 building site with mixture of trees. Corner
 of M-72 West and AuSable Trail Road.
 Cash/Possible Land Contract. CS-1415
 \$126,500



LAKE MARGRETHE COTTAGE! 2 B/R, 1 bath
 cottage offers large living room with brick fire-
 place. Attached 2 car garage with 2 workshops.
 1900 acre all sports lake (Lake Margrethe) offers
 sandy bottom, spring feed, great swimming, fish-
 ing and boating. Appliances include stove, refrig-
 erator, washer and dryer. Cottage is in need of
 repairs but has a lot of potential. 2 decks (front
 and back). CC-1912 \$299,999

3. Employment

3. Employment

NOW HIRING
 Local Motel Accepting resumes for General
 Manager's position. Applicants must possess excel-
 lent people, math, organizational and computer
 skills. Salary is negotiable based on qualifications
 and experience. Send completed resume, including
 references to Attn. S.E. P.O. Box 490 Grayling, MI.
 49738

Lead The Market With A Market Leader
 As a nationally recognized leader in the long-term car insurance
 industry we're in a market exploding with potential. Right now we're
 looking for dynamic, motivated people to join our team. Working with
 us, you'll have the power and opportunity to direct your ambition and
 confidence into profitable assets as you represent one of the
 strongest product lines in our business.
 Bring your talent to a well known organization with a strong focus on
 targeted consumer and protection markets. Build the opportunity you
 really want- an opportunity that is both professionally and financially
 satisfying.
 Call us, and bring your career to a whole new level. Call Bill Bailey at
 269-435-3535

COORDINATOR OF ADMISSIONS/RECRUITER: Kirtland
 Community College is accepting applications for Coordinator
 of Admissions/Recruiter. Qualified applicants will have the
 ability to coordinate a variety of activities and events that pro-
 mote the college to potential students and area high schools.
 Salary of \$28,876-\$41,871 commensurate with education
 and experience; excellent fringe benefit package. Send cover
 letter, resume, and three letters of reference to Dale Shantz,
 Human Resources Department, Kirtland Community College,
 10775 N. St. Helen Road, Roscommon, MI 48653.
 Applications will be accepted until May 14, 2004. Kirtland
 Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action
 employer. For a complete position description, visit our web-
 site at <http://new.kirtland.edu/hr/jobs/Default.htm> or call 989-
 275-5000, ext 239

PART TIME REGISTER OF DEEDS POSITION
 The Crawford County Clerk/Register of Deeds is seeking a sum-
 mer temporary part time highly motivated individual for data entry
 of register of deeds records. Request computer experience and
 knowledge in legal descriptions.

Applications may be obtained from and submitted to County
 Clerk/Register Sandra Moore by Thursday, April 29, 2004 at 3:30
 P.M. or May be obtained online thru www.crawfordco.org and
 returned to Crawford County Clerk/Register of Deeds 200 W.
 Michigan Avenue, Grayling, MI 49738

Sandra Moore, County Clerk
 April 13, 2004

2. For Rent

DuBois Rental Center.
 Tents, Tables & Chairs
 Available for Graduation
 (989) 348-9000
 5615 W. M-72,
 Grayling, MI 49738

3. Employment

Introducing
 The UPS Store.
 Enormous strength
 and limitless
 potential make this
 an unprecedented
 franchising opportunity.
 To learn more, visit
www.theupsstore.com
 or call 1-877-623-7253.
 The UPS Store

EMPLOYMENT
 Soon you'll be
 graduating, finding
 a job in your field is
 important. We can
 be of assistance.
 Not only do we
 have job listings in
 print but also online!
www.avalanche.townnews.com



AVALANCHE

CONTINGENT RN OFFICE POSITION open: Grayling Amicare Office has an opening in homecare covering various office positions. 1 plus years of homecare and professional nursing experience required. Computer experience and knowledge of regulatory requirements a plus. Excellent wages. Contact: Maureen Hayes, PSM (800) 424-1457 for immediate consideration and application. Fax resume to: (989)348-0046. Mercy Amicare Homecare & Hospice is committed to the Mission and Values as set forth by Trinity Health. Mercy Amicare is committed to achieving workforce diversity and is an equal opportunity employer. (-22-29/3)

I CHARGE BY THE job, not by the hour. Yard work, raking, in town and out to Sherwood Forest subdivision. Cleaning cars, trucks, vans, all the same price. Wash and wax \$25.00. Complete detail \$65.00 348-5081. (-22/4)

AT DAYS INN GRAYLING, April Showers get you flowers! Just ask for our April Showers Special-\$45.00 per night plus tax, with chocolates and a spring bouquet for your sweetie! All rooms include our deluxe continental breakfast. Upgrades available. Call us today! 989-344-0204. Offer valid through 5/01/04. (-1-8-15-22-29/4)

SUMMER DRIVER'S TRAINING and Road Testing for cars and motorcycles is offered by the Grayling Driver's Training School. Register Now for the June 14 class. Contact Howard Lehti 348-8838. (-LR6/10/2004/4)

MICHIGAN DIVORCE KIT If you can read, you can handle a divorce with children. \$75.00 + \$5.00 shipping. All forms and detailed simple instructions. Send check or money order to Hungover Publications, Inc., PO Box 267, Sandusky, Michigan 44871. (-22/4)

PAINTING DONE inside and out also minor repairs. Reasonable rates. Call Gary 989-348-3928. (-1-8-15-22/4)

LET JJ'S MOTOR MALL Get your car, truck or van ready for Spring. Detail includes wash, wax, steam clean carpets and seats, windows, trunk and tires. Appointments necessary. M-72 West (across from Skip's Sport Shop). (989) 348-7710 (1/1/04tf/4)

JERRY YARD CLEANING two man crew, truck, tools, we work by the hour. Call 989-348-7046. (-1-8-15-22-29/4)

NEW NEW NEW JJ's Auto Glass, a division of JJ's Motor Mall. Complete auto glass service. Deductibles waived up to \$125, stone chips fixed, windshield repair and replacement, stop in for a free estimate. JJ's Auto Glass, across from Skip's, M-72 West, (989) 348-7710. (4/15/04tf/4)

DAYCARE GROUP HOME with years of experience, accepting kids ages 1-12 for full-time care. Great neighborhood and awesome program, reference available. Call 348-4801. (-22/4)

KATZ CLEANING SERVICE for all your residential or business cleaning needs. Steam cleaning of carpets and upholstery. Quality work at an affordable price with references, senior discounts. Call (989) 275-4236, (989) 390-0004 or (989) 275-5476. (12/25/03tf/4)

LIBERTY LANDSCAPE & MOWER Residential, commercial, free estimates, insured. Spring-fall clean-up, retaining walls, power washing, lawn maintenance, fertilizing. 989-614-7239 Jim, 989-614-1213 Derick. (-22-29-6-13/4)

SPRING CLEANUP yard raking, tree and brush also rubbish removal. Call 348-5817 or 989-390-1526. (-22-29-6-13/4)

SEWING, ZIPPERS, MENDING, QUILTER. Ask for Lorrie (989)348-7299. (-15-22-29-6/4)

PLANNING A MEETING, shower or a get together? Our beautiful room holds up to 60 people comfortably. Affordable accommodations are also available. For a worry free function, let us set up and clean up! Call or stop in today! Bring in ad to receive 10% off. Chairman's Award Property. Days Inn 2556 S. I-75 Business Lp. Grayling, MI 49738 (989)344-0204. (-1-8-15-22-29/4)

CHILD'S PLAY DAY CARE now accepting children. Pat McLaughlin owner and certified elementary teacher. 348-4249. (-22/4)

P&C APPLIANCE SERVICE for all your service needs 348-0141. (-22/4)

RTH HOME IMPROVEMENT all your interior and exterior home improvement needs. Garages, additions, drywall, painting, roofing, siding, decks, and more. Licensed and insured, free estimates. Rob Harrington (989)344-1383. (-8-15-22-29/4)

SHAPE YOUR BODY LEAN for summer with Pilates classes at Hard Bodyz Health and Fitness in Grayling. All ages and fitness levels are welcome. For more information and to reserve a spot call (989)344-4181. (-15-22/4)

TOM'S POLE BUILDINGS Free quotes on all size buildings. Featuring Ultra 2000 siding & roofing. 4050 Industrial Dr., Harrison, Michigan 1 (800) 541-3974 tomspolebuildings.com (2/7/02tf/4)

5. For Sale

PROM IS COMING!!! Get in to J. Dap tuxedo rental to reserve your tux. \$20 will reserve the tux you want, but hurry or you'll be stuck with a tuxedo even your Dad wouldn't be caught dead in! Call 348-4011 for details. (-15-22-29/5)

LIZARD FOR SALE - Fat Tailed Leopard Gecko with tank, heat rock, water dish, etc. Friendly, low maintenance pet. \$100.00 821-5319 after 5pm. (-4/22/04tf/5)

RUSTIC LOG FURNITURE local maker has quality pieces available. Built to order. Lower overhead means lower prices to you. Call 348-6677. If no answer, please leave message. (3/4/04tf/5)

"COUNTRY FLAME" WOOD STOVE with fan. Stainless steel Insul. pipes plus accessories. Super condition 275-8508. (-15-22/5)

PONY FOR SALE bay gelding, 10 years old, friendly, handles well. Call Bart at Camp AuSable 989-348-5491. (-8-15-22-29/5)

MONTGOMERY WARD COOKSTOVE. Used for decorative purposes. Porcelain and cast iron \$700.00. Call 348-7795. (-22/5)

DRY OAK FIREWOOD cut, split, ready to burn. \$50 per face cord, delivery available. Call Chris 989-348-1870 or 989-619-0912. (LR10/21/04/5)

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER good shape, oak color, glass door, 19"x59"x52 1/2" high. \$50 989-344-0342. (SGF-22-29/5)

AT DAYS INN GRAYLING. April Showers get you flowers! Just ask for our April Showers Special-\$45.00 per night plus tax, with chocolates and a spring bouquet for your sweetie! All rooms include our deluxe continental breakfast. Upgrades available. Call us today! 989-344-0204. Offer valid through 5/01/04. (-1-8-15-22-29/5)

F-150 FIBERGLASS topper. Fits '97-'03 Ford. Excellent condition. \$650.00. 1 set mirror extensions for trailer towing with F-150. \$40.00. Phone 989-344-0913. (SGF-22-29/5)

4. Services Offered

SUPERIOR LAWN CARE IS NOW ACCEPTING NEW CUSTOMERS FOR GRAYLING! Lawn Cutting • Trimming • Edging • Hedge Trimming • Spring & Fall Leaf Clean Up • Fertilizing Weed & Feed (989) 821-4345

5. For Sale

DOWNSIZING: oak king size bedroom outfit, no mattress, chest, dresser, bookcase, headboard, pier. 2 white pantry cabinets, organ, black piers with glass doors, and light bridge. Oak TV entertainment, bar and bar stools, computer desk and more! Call (989)348-9081 leave message. (-22/5)

J DAP CO. has fun new toys! Stop in to see our wide selection. Prices are great too! We have many toys under \$5.00 (and even some under \$1.00) to choose from. Great ideas for birthday party goodie bags and gifts. J Dap is located at 118 Michigan Avenue in Grayling. Please stop by soon. (-1-8-15-22/5)

BEADING CLASSES are now available at J. Dap Co. Gift Store. Call 348-4011 for details. (-15-22/5)

SPRING is in the air at J. Dap Co Gift Store. Stop in to see all the new beautiful floral candle rings, wreaths and garlands. These are perfect for all of your spring decorating needs! J. Dap Co is located at 118 Michigan Ave. in Grayling. (-15-22/5)

J. DAP CATALOG SALES your local JCPenny catalog store is now selling returns! You save on shipping and handling! The items are changed weekly, so stop by often to see if we have what you need. J. Dap catalog sales is located at 118 Michigan Ave., in Grayling. (-15-22-29/5)

J. DAP CO gift store has new specialty foods!!! We have AuSable River bread mixes, dip mixes and soup mixes. Check out our beer bread and cowboy chocolate. Don't forget about our delicious AuSable River chocolate rocks!! J. Dap is located at 118 Michigan Ave. (-22-29/5)

1999 DUTCHMAN TRAVEL TRAILER 30 ft, never used. 344-8185. (-15-22/5)

4. Services Offered

LAWN CARE AND SNOWPLOWING LLC Call for a FREE ESTIMATE 989-821-4956 Mow & Trim Trim Shrubbs Hydroseed Fertilize Residential • Commercial • Industrial

5. For Sale

96 ALUMACRAFT FISHERMAN 150 with 25 HP electric start mariner, live well with aerator and Eagle fish finder, \$2,900 989-348-8157. (-22/5)

MOTHER'S DAY is just around the corner and J. Dap has a large selection of gifts for you to choose from. Italian charm bracelets are on sale, just for Mother's Day! These bracelets are 25% off and can be personalized for that special person in your life. This sale starts April 14 and ends on May 8, but hurry in while the selection is still good! J. Dap also has Yankee Candles and wonderful new candle accessories that are perfect for Mother's Day. Be sure to look at our new sterling silver earrings that are very beautiful and prices just right! J.Dap is full of many other wonderful gift ideas so stop by soon! J. Dap is located at 118 Michigan Ave. in Grayling! (-15-22-29-6/5)

LOOKING FOR A GIFT for Mother's Day? Get a lovely gift basket from Rosemary's Baskets for Mother's Day. Custom baskets that will sure to please the Garden lover, the book reader and much more. Call 989-390-1678. (-22-29-6/5)

FLEXSTEEL HIDE-A-BED couch. Looks great, Scotch Guard treated \$100, call 348-3256. (-22-29/5)

FOR SALE: 6ft fiberglass truck topper with slide windows. \$275.00 call 989-344-2053. (4/15/04tf/5)

1968 LOWREY SPINET PIANO and bench - fruitwood. Excellent condition \$800.00 - 989-348-4946. (-22/5)

WALL OVEN SELF CLEAN black front, P&C Appliance Service 348-0141. (-22/5)

QUEEN SIZE PILLOW TOP mattress and box springs new in plastic with Amish made pine log headboard. Cost \$995 will sacrifice for \$285. Call (989) 429-0062. (-7/3/03tf/5)

4. Services Offered

COMPLETE SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION & CLEANING Jack Millikin, Inc. 348-8411 www.jackmillikininc.com

Odd-Job Enterprises Let us do your small home repairs FREE ESTIMATES - CALL LTC. Norm Schmooch (Ret.) 348-5132 No odd jobs too small for Odd Job

CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY Over 20 years experience Choose fabric in your home FREE estimates • Pick-up & delivery Shirley Bolton (231) 258-2610

5. For Sale

PREMIUM FIREWOOD Seasoned Hardwoods \$45 per Face Cord Free Local Delivery Buying Tops 1-800-485-1456

Attention all pet owners!



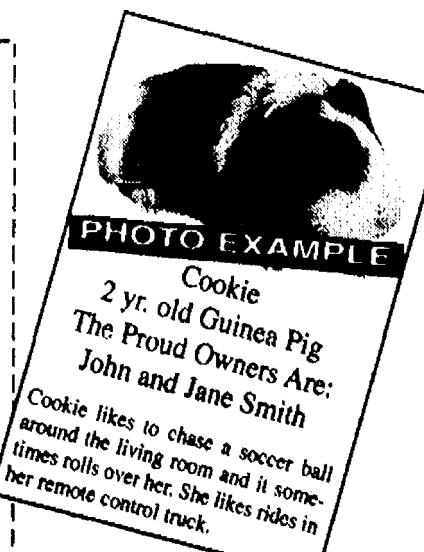
May 2-8 is National Pet Week

THE AVALANCHE WILL BE PRINTING A SPECIAL COLOR SECTION CALLED- CRAWFORD COUNTY'S MOST ADORABLE PETS Featuring photos of your pets. This is your opportunity to brag to our readers about your pet.

SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF YOUR PET TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS SPECIAL SECTION. DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, April 30, 2004 THE COST IS \$10.00 FOR EACH PHOTO SUBMITTED. PLEASE SEND PHOTOS WITH GOOD CONTRAST. CLIP AND SUBMIT WITH PHOTO

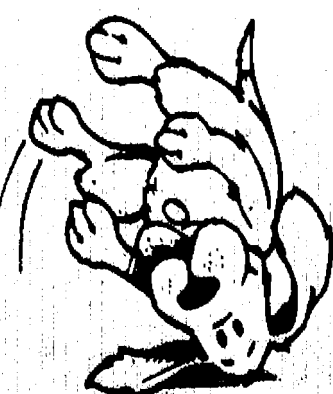
Pet's Name: _____
Owner's Name(s): _____
Tell us about your pet: (25 words or less) _____

Contact Person's Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Avalanche, P.O. Box 490, Grayling, MI 49738 • 989-348-6811



All photos can be picked up at the Avalanche office after publication.

CRAWFORD COUNTY'S MOST ADORABLE PETS - 2004 WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MAY 6, 2004 ISSUE



NATIONAL PET WEEK May 2-8

AVALANCHE 989-348-6811

THE ANTICIPATION, THE EXCITEMENT, THE THRILL OF... GARAGE SALE SEASON

Yes, garage Sale Season is on the way. Check out the Avalanche Classifieds



AVALANCHE 102 Mich Ave • Grayling • 348-6811

FOR SALE Riverboat, cedar strip. A beauty at \$3995.00 348-2187 or 350-7929. (-22/5)

LADIES STARTER GOLF CLUBS, bag, and cart accessories. Good condition. \$50.00 firm. 348-5074. (-22/5)

QUEEN SIZE MATTRESS set with Amish made pine log headboard and free frame still in plastic, never used. Cost \$800, will sacrifice for \$235. Call (989) 429-0062. (7/3/03tf/5)

AMISH BUILT pine log bed. Queen size, beautiful must see. Will sell for \$265. Queen size mattress set, new in plastic with free frame will sacrifice \$150. Call (989) 429-0062. (7/3/03tf/5)

2002 WILDWOOD 5th wheel with slide out, 28 foot bunk house \$15,500 989-348-4156. (-8-15-22-29/5)

1989 17" CRESTLINER open bow, 3 liter mercruiser, EZ loader, trailer phone. 275-1725. (-22/5)

PLANNING A MEETING, shower or a get together? Our beautiful room holds up to 60 people comfortably. Affordable accommodations are also available. For a worry free function, let us set up and clean up! Call or stop in today! Bring in this ad to receive 10% off. Chairman's Award Property. 2556 S. I-75 Business Lp. Grayling, MI 49738 (989)344-0204. (-1-8-15-22-29/5)

6. Wanted

WANTED: FRONT CLIP for 89 GMC PU 989-348-1809. (-22-29/6)

BUYING STANDING TIMBER of all species, top dollar paid, 10 acres or more. Please call Stuckman Tree Service. (989) 732-5230. (-19-26-4-11-18-25-1-8-15-22/6)

7. Miscellaneous

4 X 8 LIGHTED SIGNS for sale or lease, tables and chairs for lease, trash barrels for sale. Fick & Sons, Grayling. (989) 348-7647 or 1-800-292-9295 (4/24/03tf/7)

FRED BEAR CAMPFIRE STORIES Just released audio CD Listen to Fred himself telling his favorite hunting stories. Available at Sledheads of Frederic or call Pete Kocenas (989) 348-8627 (1/8/04tf/7)

8. Announcements

WOOD CARVING TOOLS Flex-cut, Foredom Warren. Classes available. Cartwright & Danewell M-72 West, 348-7903. (-22-29-6-13/8)

FREE HOME OWNERSHIP Classes and mortgage assistance for low income families & individuals. Call toll free 866-637-1834 or local 989-348-8446 for more information. Classes start May 5 and run for 7 weeks. (-25-1-8-15-22/8)

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7. Miscellaneous

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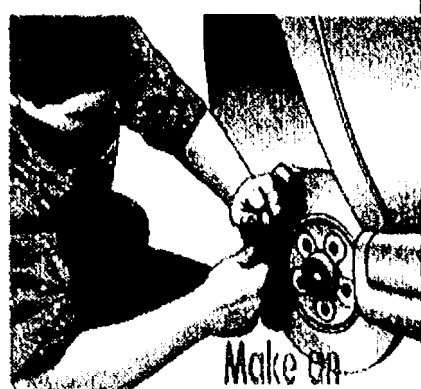
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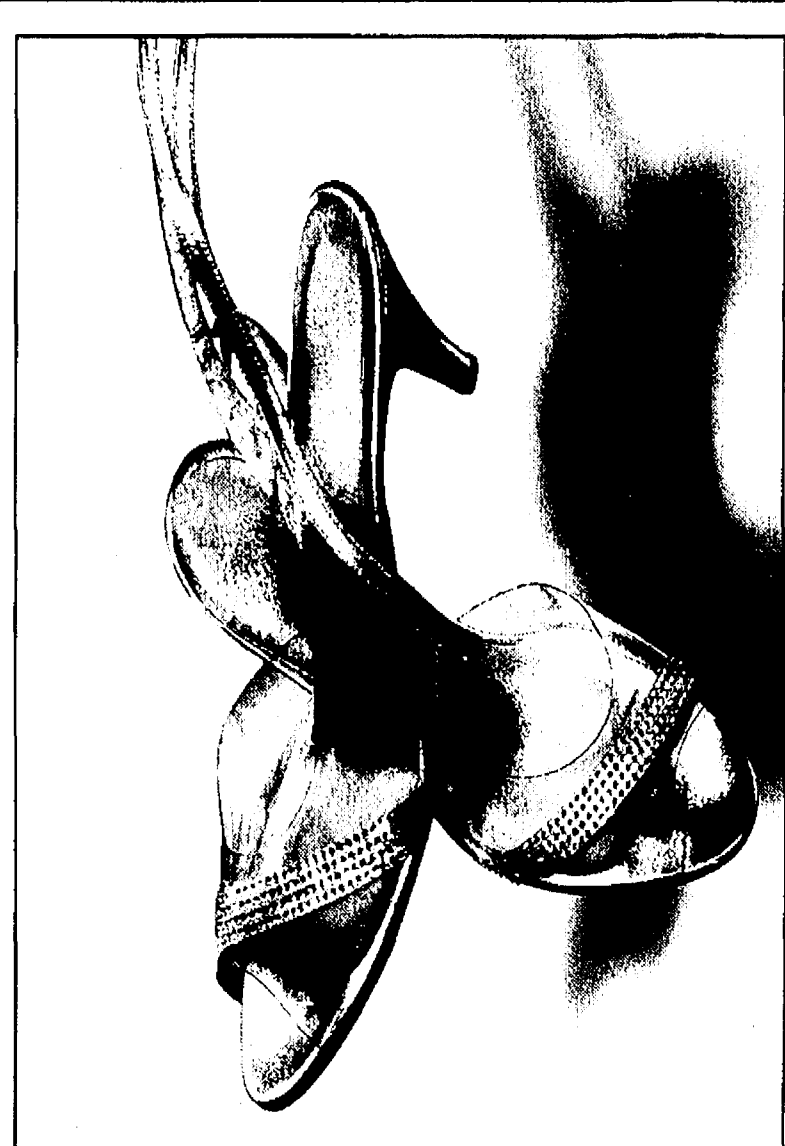
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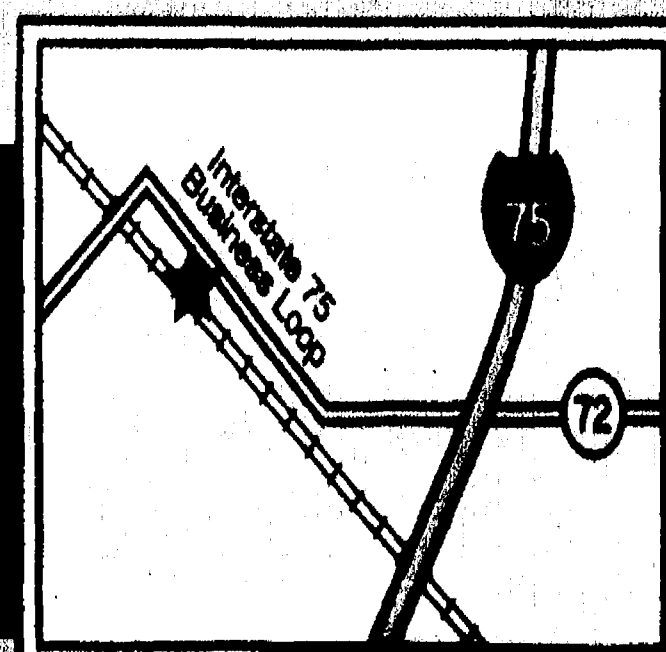
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With Warmer Weather Approaching, It's Time To Brush Up On Window Safety Basics

By Morrie McLain
President, Tri-Lakes Home Builders Association

It's been a long, cold winter, and as the weather is finally starting to warm up, opening up the windows to air out your home may seem like a wonderful idea. As spring approaches, keep in mind that in addition to letting in fresh air, windows also play a critical role in home safety.

Your windows can serve as secondary escape routes from your home and are invaluable in case of emergency, every member of your family should know how to take advantage of a window exit during a fire. However, it is equally as important for homeowners to understand that open windows can be hazardous, especially to young children; and to be familiar with the important steps you can take to prevent accidental falls.

In honor of National Window Safety Week, April 18-23, take some time to assess the state of your home's windows and your family's awareness of their importance in terms of overall home safety. The tips below can help ensure that your windows provide a trouble-free escape route for your family in an emergency while remaining safe for youngsters in your home.

- Windows provide one of the fastest, easiest alternatives to escape a house fire. Sit down with your family to design an emergency escape plan – and practice it. Always be sure that there is at least one window in each sleeping and living area that is available as an alternative escape route during a home emergency.

- Make sure that your windows open and close easily. When performing spring repairs, be care-

ful not to accidentally paint or nail your windows shut, making emergency escape impossible. Do not install window unit air conditioners where they could block or impede escape during an emergency.

- While security bars, grilles, and window grates keep intruders out, they also can lock you in. If the devices do not have a simple and functioning release mechanism, they are useless when you are trying to escape a fire.

- When children are present, make sure that windows are closed and locked. Set and enforce rules to keep your children from playing around windows or patio doors, and keep

furniture, along with any other objects that children may climb, away from windows.

- Don't depend on window screens to prevent falls. Insect screens are designed to provide ventilation while keeping pests and debris out – not to keep youngsters in.

- Plant shrubs and other soft landscaping underneath windows to lessen the impact in case of a fall. The degree of potential injury can be significantly affected by the surface on which the victim falls.

For more information about National Window Safety Week and additional window safety tips, visit the National Safety Council website: www.nsc.org

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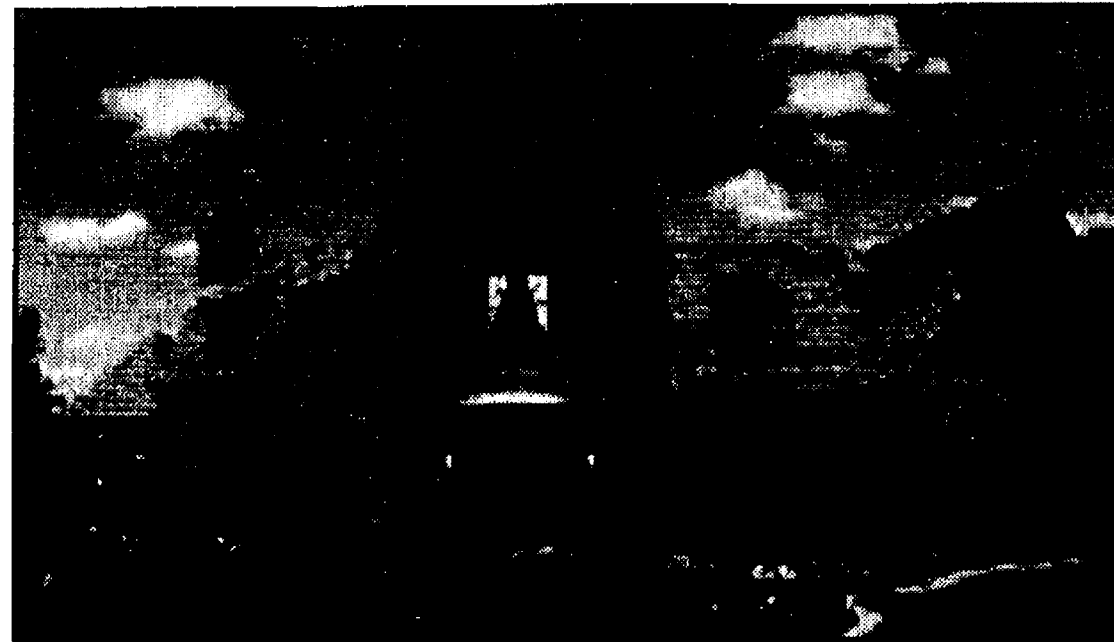
Why Home Buyers Choose Brick Exteriors

Surprising Reasons Go Deeper Than Foundations

(IHIT) – Why home buyers choose brick exteriors – and the significance they attach to them – reveals much more than a desire for curb appeal and a higher resale value, according to focus group findings from the Brick Industry Association (BIA), Reston, Va. Surprisingly, the intangibles for choosing brick reflect their emotional beliefs about what homes are – and an overall assurance of ‘life as it should be.’

“Many participants recalled their childhood homes, expressed a desire for greater security and a sense of entitlement, depending on their stage in life,” said Tom Perry, vice president, BIA. “They viewed their homes’ exterior as a reflection of their personal taste, and as a visible symbol of lifestyle and achievement,” he said.

Focus Group Activities
Twelve mini focus groups of



“Houses made of brick have character,” said one participant of a Brick Industry Association focus group.

home buyers and homeowners in Washington, Chicago, Dallas and Atlanta comprised of four to six men and women engaged in various creative activities to demonstrate their attitudes toward brick. Activities included drawing their dream homes, creating collages with pictures and words cut out from magazines and writing stories to show the imagined activities within the homes.

The collages representing brick homes – or life in a brick home – included filled pages of photos in warm, vibrant colors of families gathered around holiday tables or just being together, glowing candles, blazing fireplaces and pies baking in the oven.

Responses imagining the inhabitants’ activities included “Everyone is welcome,” “You feel relaxed and at home,” “We’re having a dinner party,” “I imagine big, happy families living in brick homes,” “I imagine brick homes being the places where families and friends get together for gatherings and reunions,” “A brick home would be the perfect place to enjoy big Thanksgiving dinners and other holidays.”

Collages representing homes made of other, exterior materials were more sparse, depicting family members engaging in separate activities (mostly household chores). Several respondents’ stories told of parents struggling to make ends meet. They described life as busy and hectic with no time to relax.

For many respondents, brick homes were equated with earned success and prestige. Comments

included, “They (brick homes) are a sign that you’ve made it.” “Brick is something to strive for.” “My husband and I work 12-hour days – I just want to have something that shows all the work that we’ve done.” And, “We’re proud we finally made it all come true.”

Good taste and sound judgment were also resounding themes for choosing brick. “Houses made of brick have character.” “It’s a smart purchase.” “It comes across as quality.” And, “It’s forever classic and always in style.”

Respondents also noted brick’s stability, permanence, durability, and an ability to retain its value. “When I lived in a siding house, I was always looking for what my next house would be” said one participant. “Owning a brick home gives you a feeling of being settled down for good,” said another. Others included, “Owning a brick home is part of knowing who you are and what you want in life.” “A brick home suggests a feeling of security and serenity.”

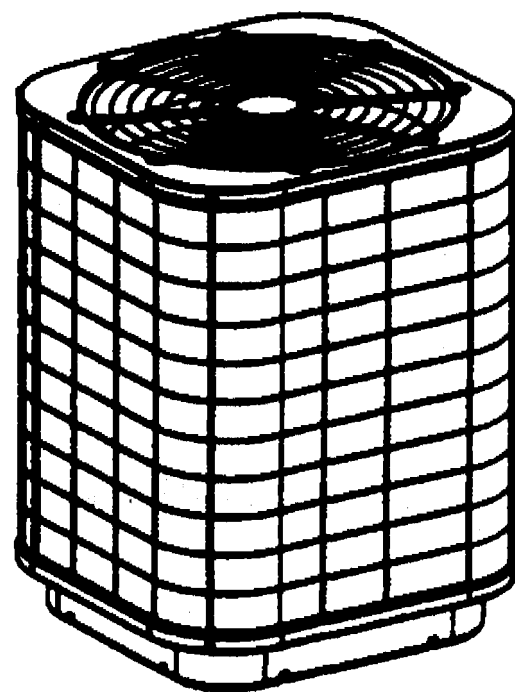
What “Home” Means

Resounding themes regarding the meaning of home – or what it should be – included the idea of “home as sanctuary,” a visible measure of one’s accomplishments in life and their current life stage, and home as an expression of the self.

Both men and women said they view their homes as places that insulate them from the pressure and forces of the outside world. “The workday’s ended,” said one respondent. “I am back in my comfort zone,” said another.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

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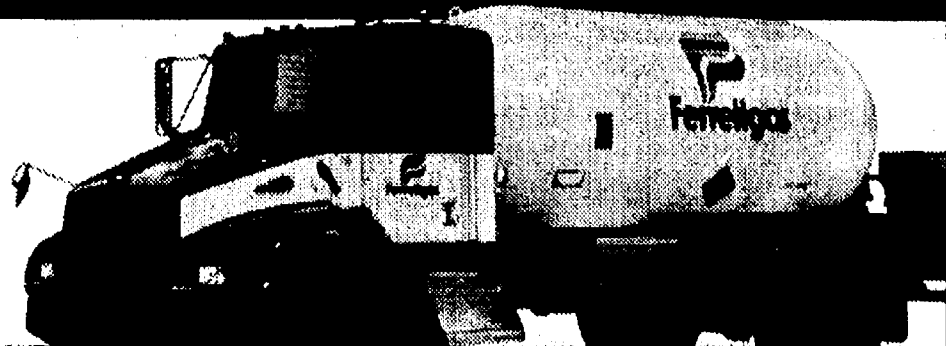
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Why Home Buyers Choose Brick Exteriors

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Home as a visible reflection of the self was another theme. Respondents' comments included, "If you like your home, you want to have people over."

And, "As friends started trading up homes, you almost felt second-tier stature. Do we want them to come over for dinner? Why don't we just meet them somewhere?"

What Brick Means

Participants' responses regarding life in a brick home ran from the more obvious — "brick is strong and secure" — to the more subtle or complex, such as the association of brick homes with an idealized family life. Most

participants said they desired a home made entirely of brick; anything less was "not the real thing."

Respondents' dual associations also reflected opposing qualities. "Brick is impressive, yet warm." "It's stately, but cozy." "You get a sense of solidity, but it's warm and inviting." Comments imagining family life in brick homes included, "It's wholesome. I think of marriage and family." And, "It looks like a happy family lives there."

In each focus group, at least one person mentioned the children's story of "The Three Little Pigs." Although easy to dismiss, participants' descriptions of

brick homes included "secure," "substantial" and "permanent." Comments included, "Brick gives you a sense of solidity," and "This is where I feel safe."

A copy of the study's is available through BIA. E-mail: speer@bia.org.

The Brick Industry Association (BIA), Reston, Va., is a non-profit trade association representing the manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of clay brick. BIA's 40 manufacturers operate nearly 150 plants that produce more than 85 percent of the brick shipped in the U.S. and Canada. BIA also represents 149 U.S. brick distributors. Web site: www.gobrick.com.

Tips To Help You Get The House You Want At Your Price

By David Finkel
For News USA

(NUI) - Real estate prices have risen dramatically nationwide, with homes commanding pretty hefty prices.

Think there's no way around it? Think again. With a little bit of industry knowledge, homebuyers and investors alike can save tens of thousands of dollars on the purchase of their next property.

Here's how:

- Only buy from a motivated seller. "It sounds like a wonderful property. Why would you ever consider selling it?" It's the single most important question to ask a seller. If the seller has no compelling reason to sell, it's best to move on.

- Create competition when you're buying. Try subtly introducing competition into property negotiations. For example: "I'm getting all the houses I've seen today mixed up. Can you please remind me a little about your property?" Appropriately dropping hints of other homes can tap into a seller's fear of losing a potential buyer.

- Understand the power of qualified cash buyers. In home buying, getting a solid, pre-approved loan is a lot like receiving a college diploma: Both credentials can ease your way to fulfilling a main objective. In this case, the goal isn't a career but home ownership.

As a pre-approved cash buyer, you are financially able to close quickly and easily, should you purchase the seller's property, making you a more appealing buyer. Your pre-approval carries

even more weight with sellers if they've had deals collapse due to loan contingencies.

- Master the art of negotiation. Negotiation is essential when it comes to saving money on your next house. Start by asking the seller what he or she deems as the right asking price. Follow up by asking what the seller realistically expected to get.

Or, try the range technique, one of the simplest ways to gently test a seller's limits:

Potential buyer: "What did you conservatively expect to get for the property?"

Seller: "\$250,000."

Potential buyer: "Really? You expected to get between \$240,000 and \$250,000."


If the seller argues, simply shrink your range until you find out how low the seller is willing to go.

- Always bid on two or more houses at the same time. Let the seller know you'll do business with the first to accept your offer. If anything, it helps give

you leverage. Remember, the fear of losing a buyer makes for a more flexible seller.

David Finkel is co-author of the Wall Street Journal best seller "Making Big Money Investing in Foreclosures Without Cash or Credit." He also is a full-time real estate investor and the host of the nationally broadcast Real Estate Radio. His Web site, www.freeinvestortools.com, is ranked as one of the top 10 investor sites on the Web by the American Real Estate Investors Association.

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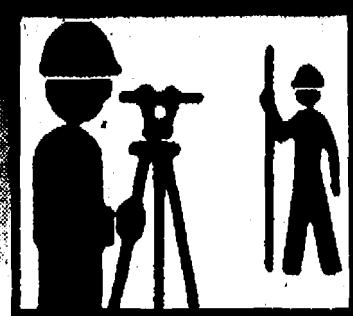
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## Bring A Piece Of History Into Your Backyard With Antique-Look Brick Pavers

(IHIT) — The latest trend in paving is actually a blast from the past — new fired clay pavers made to look like they were transported from the pages of a history book. Though they have a weathered look, this new breed of brick pavers is every bit as durable as their modern-looking counterparts. They meet all ASTM (American Society for Testing & Materials) standards and are frequently used for driveways and on streets. If you still doubt the durability of these aged-looking brick, just look at the historic districts of Boston where brick-paved sidewalks are still in use after more than 200 years.

In recent years, options for achieving this popular look have increased along with the demand. A few years ago, those in the market for antique-look pavers would have relied on recycled sources-pavers harvested from old buildings. Pine Hall Brick's Paver Director Ted Corvey notes the limitations of this dwindling supply, saying, "Recycled brick is harder to find, expensive, and inconsistent in size, color and quality." Those who want actual antique pavers can go through dealers like Colonial Chicago Brick who sell reclaimed brick from Chicago and other parts of the country.

Mike Longo, Whitacre Greer Pavers' Executive Vice President notes that five years ago they were getting so many requests for this look that they "went to the drawing board determined to find the best way to make something new that looked old." Today many brick manufacturers offer their own brand of antique-look clay pavers. From tumbled to tumbled and sand-moulded to wood mold, what do these terms mean to you as a consumer? Let's take a look at some of the antique-look products available

and how they differ from each other.

### Tumbled Pavers

The newest variety on the market, these brick pavers are actually "tumbled" during or after the manufacturing process to achieve an aged appearance. Boral Brick's Paver Manager John Blackwelder describes their tumbling method saying, "Once these pavers have been processed through the plant, they are tumbled together as they dry. The technique gives them a slightly deteriorated, soft appearance, similar to that of pavers made hundreds of years ago."

Whitacre Greer does its tumbling after the manufacturing process is complete, allowing them to take any of their products and tumble them at your request. Glen-Gery's Marketing Manager Ben Hoenich notes that the tumbled products are such a great value because they "take advantage of the economics of extruded brick while emulating the characteristics of the hand-made molded process."

Two new tumbled products were introduced in recent months to meet the increased demand for the antique look. Pine Hall's Rumbled pavers are made using an innovative process in which they are put through a large tumbler that rounds the edges while maintaining consistency of strength and sizing. Glen-Gery and Whitacre Greer also offer tumbled, antique-look pavers in a variety of shapes and colors. When comparing costs, the tumbled products are middle of the road — less expensive the molded products, but more than simulated antique varieties.

### Wood Mold Pavers

Up until the last 100 years or so, most brick was actually made by hand using individual wood molds which were dusted with sand to keep the clay from sticking to the mold. Today, you can still buy handmade brick from a limited number of brick companies, while several others offer a machine molded alternative. All wood mold pavers — whether machine or handmade — are characterized by the four finished sides created by the box used to mold the brick. As would be expected, wood mold pavers are the most expensive, but also



**Redland's Cushwa pavers are actually molded by hand as they have been for more than a century.**

the most authentic, antique-look brick products on the market.

Redland Brick's Cushwa plant still sells clay pavers made by hand using the same method since 1872. These clay pavers are individually hand-pressed into sand-coated molds, creating a true wood-mold product that is most like those used during the colonial period of our country's founding and through the 1800s.

Boral's 17th Century machine-molded pavers are manufactured alongside its other 17th Century brick products: in wooden boxes lightly dusted with sand. According to Blackwelder, "These pavers have softer, unevenly textured edges, and a subtle color variation that may change from run to run, adding an Old World charm to your garden or walkway." Glen-Gery also offers machine molded paver, as well as a rolled edge paver, as options for creating softer lines in paved areas. Belden Brick offers several machine-molded pavers, and, like many brick manufacturers, will make a paver to match nearly every face brick it produces, eliminating worries about matching home architecture to landscaping.

### Simulated Antique Brick

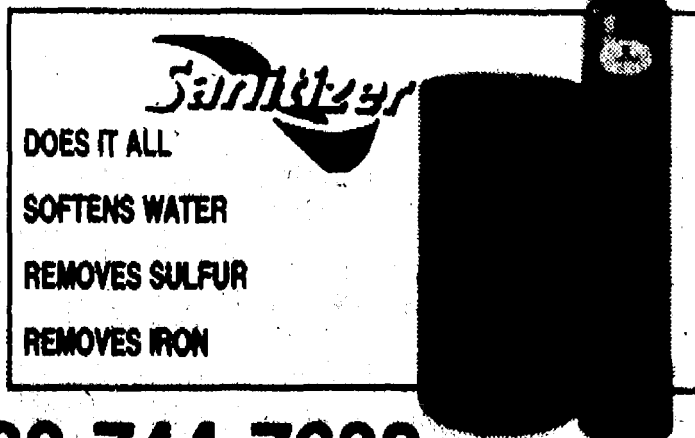
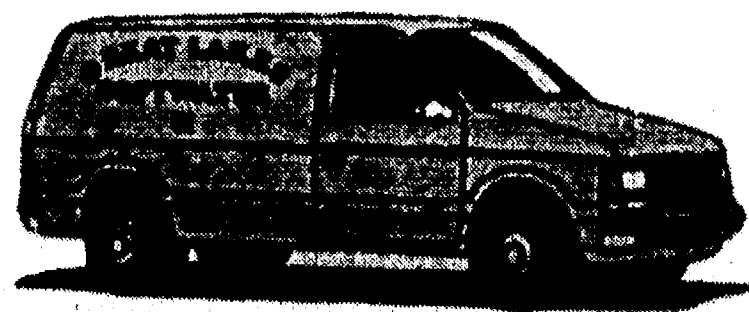
This category encompasses a variety of innovative techniques used to age brick. While the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)



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# Increase Your Home's Curb Appeal With An Entryway

(NUI) — An entryway has the unique position of welcoming visitors to a home and setting the mood for the rest of the house. A front door design theme can be carried from the exterior to the interior and throughout the entire home. Since today's door manufacturers offer an abundance of striking entry systems that are compatible with most budgets, it's possible to create a million dollar look for almost any home.

By adding sidelights and transoms, you can create an elegant entry system. Transoms are shaped windows, usually with decorative glass, above a door. Sidelights are windows, with decorative or clear glass, that frame a door. Included below are tips to create an impressive entry system to fit most budgets.

Even with a limited budget, homeowners can create an impressive entrance. Fiberglass, steel and composite doors are

now crafted to emulate the look of wood, while offering energy-efficiency. Steel doors are extremely strong and cost-efficient; Fiberglass doors resist rusting, cracking and splitting; composite doors withstand all types of weather. These types of doors are low-maintenance and cost-effective.

With a more open budget, a homeowner can select from a wider range of entryway designs. Whether the home is stucco, brick or wood-sided, wood doors make a remarkable upgrade to the front of most houses. Wood doors are offered in a variety of species, including oak, fir and pine to fit the homeowner's personal style.

To further enhance a home's curb appeal, homeowners can select wood species and options to coordinate with interiors, doors, window finishings and even cabinetry for a polished, complete look.

Customized entryways are

more than a simple gateway between the outside world and your home. They are works of art. Skilled artisans craft custom doors to emphasize the remarkable characteristics of natural wood and enhance the home's true beauty.

Luxury composite doors, like Jeld-Wen's Aurora Collection, are alternatives to wood. Designed for extreme weather resistance, these doors are as aesthetically appealing as a real wood door with less maintenance.

An inviting entryway can be fashioned within any budget. By creating a unique doorway, a homeowner can change the look of the entire house and increase curb appeal with a grand, new exterior.

For more information on doors for all price ranges, please visit [www.jeld-wen.com](http://www.jeld-wen.com).

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## Bring A Piece Of History Into Your Backyard With Antique-Look Brick Pavers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

looks of each differ, they are all products of imaginative techniques like sand blasting, coating and other texturing processes done before or after firing. This is the least expensive type of antique-look clay paver, but still more than expensive than traditional square edge clay pavers.

Pine Hall Brick's Old Series pavers use a unique process in which a ceramic slurry coating is baked onto extruded pavers, giving them a reclaimed "old warehouse" look. Machine-made texturing added prior to firing adds to the Old World charm. Brick in this series have names like Old Towne and Old Tavern which, along with random smears of black and white paint, reflect the reclaimed look of the brick.

Tom Perry, Vice President of Marketing for the Brick Industry Association, sums up

the trend toward antique-look pavers, saying, "The whole antique market is growing because consumers want a look that says 'I've been here a while' which speaks to durability and longevity. I think that deep down this provides feelings of comfort and safety that are not much different from the charm associated with going to an old historic place. There's a feeling that this place has survived a very long time and there's comfort in that."

Finally, whether you go for the well-worn patina of antique-look pavers or the crisp look of modern extruded pavers, the key to long-lasting beauty is to make sure you are getting a genuine clay brick paver. All pavers are not created equal, and no other material will maintain its color and age as well as genuine fired clay pavers. To find a distributor near you, visit [www.gobrick.com](http://www.gobrick.com).

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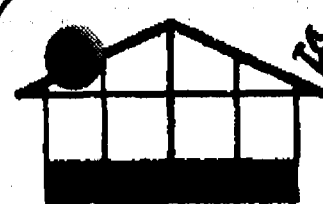
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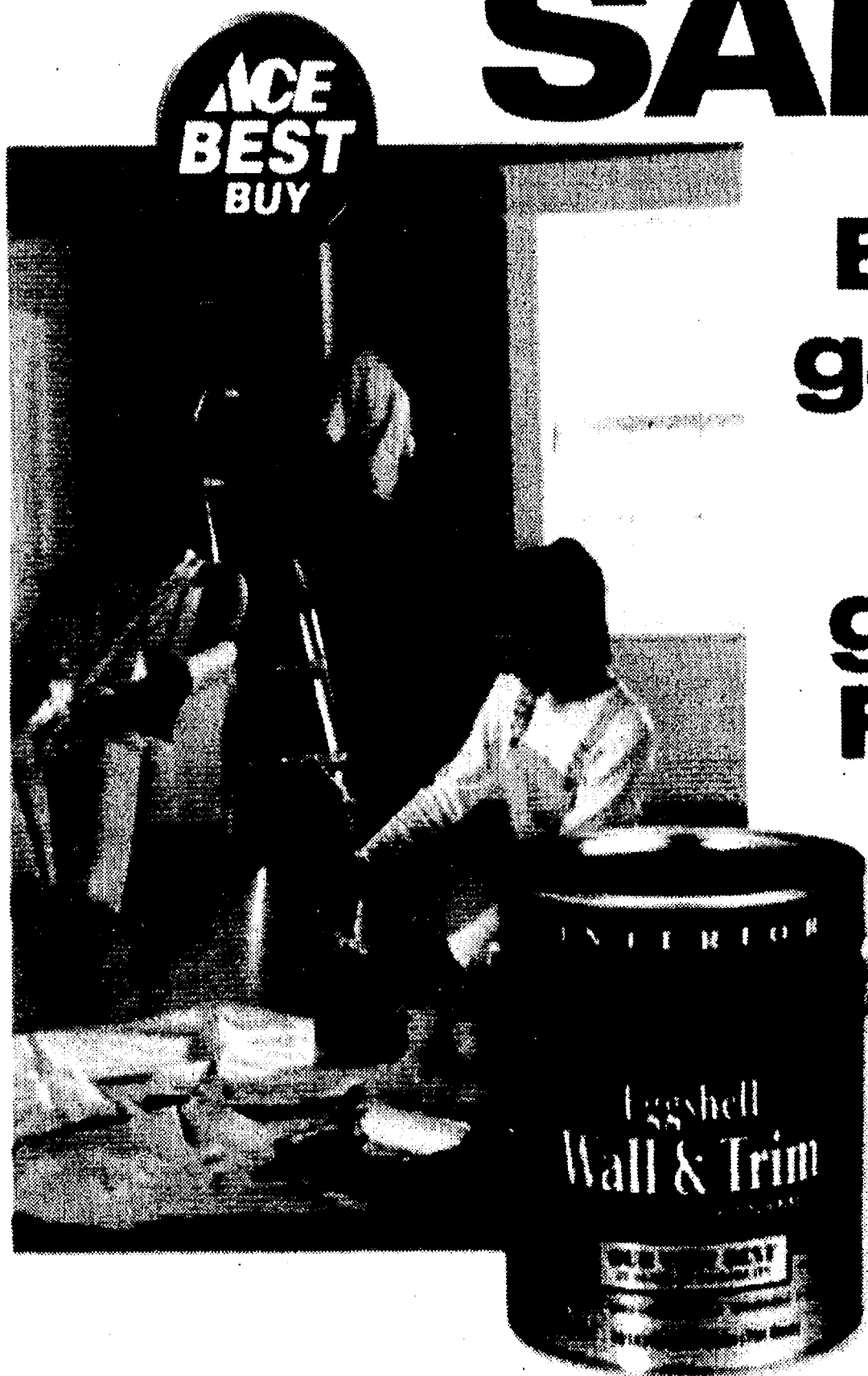
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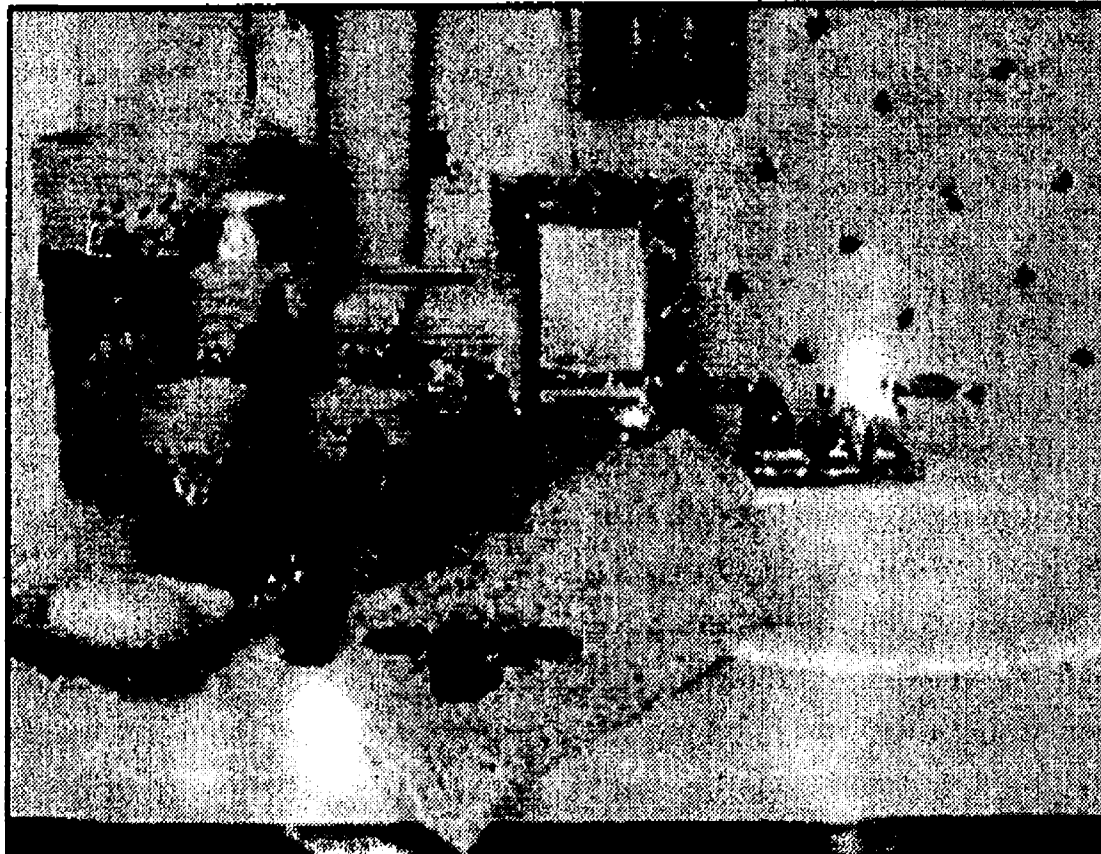
# Big Bath Ideas For Small Budgets

By Lis King

(IHIT) – A dingy, ugly bath is sure to start your day on the wrong foot, but since this is such an expensive room to remodel, many of us put up with the morning blues. However, designer Barbara Lazarow of Blonder Home Accents says that contrary to common belief, you don't always need a complete overhaul to turn a bath around. Some well-chosen small changes can produce big effects.

A dark bathroom is especially depressing, says Lazarow, so she recommends light and bright colors on the walls. She likes wallpaper for baths "because it's classier and more decorative than paint."

"Just think how a design of puffy clouds on a blue sky would open up a dark bath," she says. "Or a crisp blue and white stripe...It'll conjure up instant images of summer and the ocean. Or how about a botanical pattern to remind you of the beauty of the garden? And don't



**Small changes can produce big effects in a boring bath. One effective upgrade can be made with bath accessories, such as these Pinecone designs from the new Expressions collection by Blonder Home Accents.**

forget borders to start your day in a good mood. Whatever your hobby or special interest...from sailing or gardening to camping or vintage cars...you're sure to be able to find a border that'll strike the right chord."

Lazarow also likes the idea of literally "wrapping" a small bath in a mural. "It's especially effective in a windowless room," she says. "And imagine starting the day in Paris, Rome or Kyoto. The 'Mural/Artscapes' collection from Three Pillars Design has beautifully executed images from around the world, including renowned golf courses and Western scenes. These murals are perfect for those of us, who like to think of favorite places while showering or applying mascara."

Stick-on mini-murals that'll adhere to ceramic tiles are another way to spruce up a tired bath. For example, IdeaStix offers views that'll fit over a few tiles, just enough to send you day-dreaming while soaking in the tub.

## Accessorizing The Bath

For more traditional looks, Lazarow recommends toiles and damasks and classic florals from such collections as Fairwinds'

"Toile de Jouy" and "Mount Vernon" by York/St. James, and for country looks, she likes Chesapeake's "Beekeeper's Inn" and Carlebee's "Country Corner."

Accessories can also spruce up a bath. Taking the popularity of wallpaper border one step further, Blonder now offers such bath accessories as soap dishes, tumblers, picture frames, switchplates, area rugs, shower curtains and hooks that match favorite border themes, including pinecones, butterflies, bugs and bees, blooming flowers, lighthouses, moon and stars, frogs and tropical foliage. Some additional pieces included in the collections are lotion pumps, night lights, waste baskets and tissue boxes that coordinate with wallpaper borders.

"This is an excellent way to give a less-than-interesting bath a focal point," says Lazarow. "And, by the way, I really like the idea of framed photographs in the bath. They add a charming, friendly note."

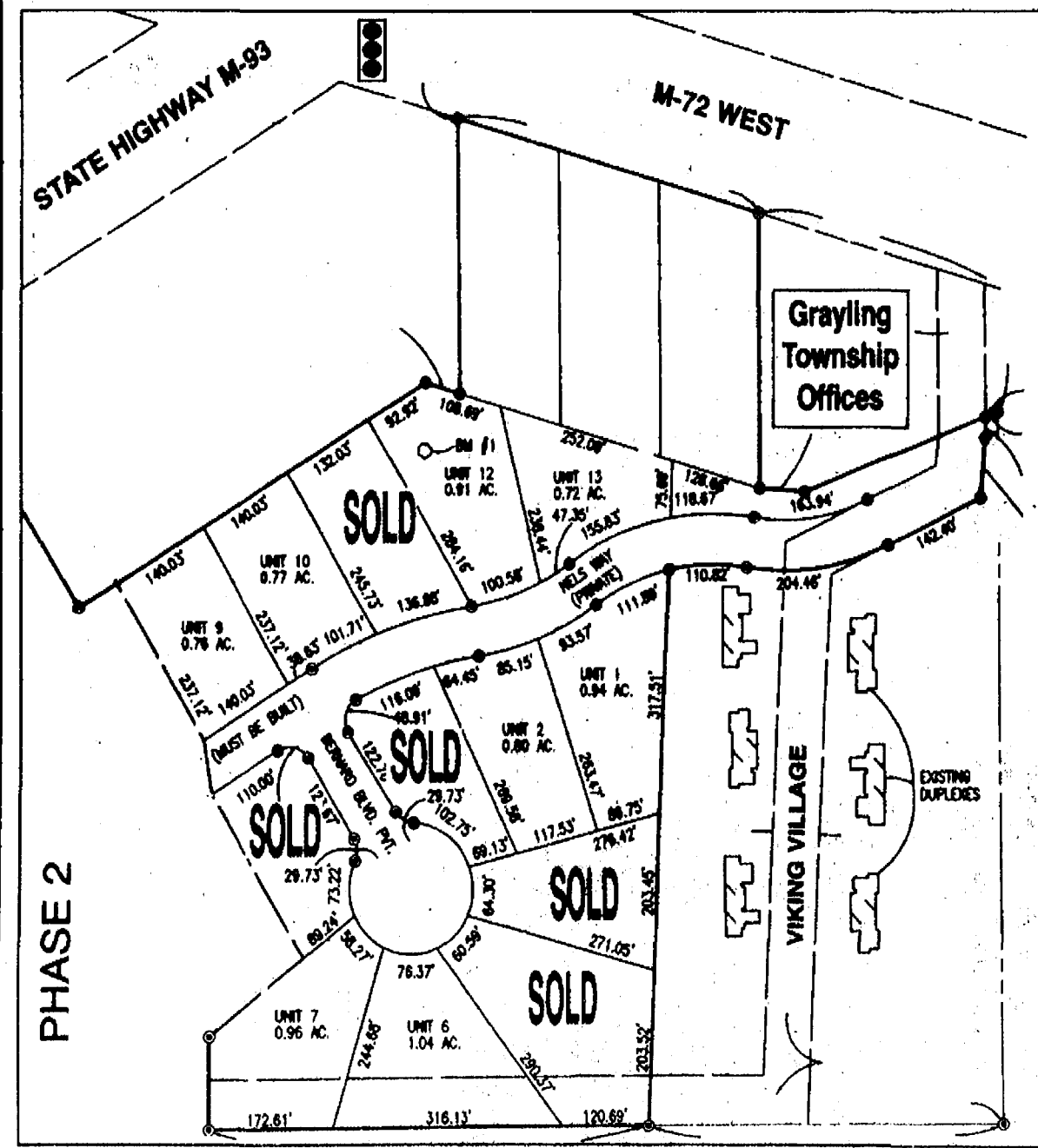
If you do decide to change one or several fixtures, Lazarow recommends that you go with white. "It won't date," she says, "and you can always inject color with wallpaper, window treatments, towels, etc."

For a less elaborate make-over than replacing fixtures, you might change the hardware. "In the bath, chrome, brass, nickel and pewter hardware works exactly like good jewelry on a basic dress," she notes.

For where to browse Blonder's collection of "Expressions Bath Accessories" and the firm's wide variety of wallcoverings from the country's foremost design studios, call 1-800-321-4070 or check [www.blonderhome.com](http://www.blonderhome.com), Dealers' Corner.

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# Choosing Outdoor Lighting

(IHIT) - A well illuminated homesite, farmstead or other rural business adds value to your property in three ways:

- Enhances personal safety and prevents injuries;
- Deters vandalism and theft;
- Extends the productive work hours and outdoor recreation time beyond sundown.

But do you know how to match the right type of light source to the need and location? If you want to illuminate the area in front of your garage, will a 40 watt low pressure sodium lamp provide enough light? How high should it be mounted? Knowing the best light source and fixture style can make all the difference in how you spend your outdoor lighting dollars.

Too often, consumers purchase whatever light fixture happens to be on sale at their local home center, without a thought about wattage, mounting height, energy efficiency, or ease of maintenance. The following recommendations can help you make a better choice.

To illuminate large areas around buildings, fuel storage or parking lots, use high intensity discharge lights (HID). This family of light sources are characterized by their intense, bright light, and must be mounted high

to spread the light and avoid glare. Low pressure sodium is a common HID light source. In urban or suburban areas, be sure you're not sending light into your neighbor's window or other areas where it is not wanted. Look for fixtures with a reflector or head assembly that directs light downward. A well designed fixture may cost a little more, but you are gaining in the long run because all the light you pay for is being directed where you can use it. A typical 90 watt, high pressure sodium lamp (120 W with ballast), burning from dusk-to-dawn (about 4,100 hours/year) costs \$49.20 to operate annually, at 10¢ per kilowatt-hour.

Around entrance doors, gates or other locked areas, use motion-sensor lights. These infrared-activated spot lights have two advantages. They are only on when needed, and their focused beam helps get keys in locks, or maneuver oversized equipment through gates or doors. The automatic off feature also saves energy, since lights are only on a short time.

Near the front walkway of your home or business, use a decorative yard light on a six foot lamp post to illuminate pathways. In addition to enhanc-

ing your home's appearance, yard lights can lower your liability for personal injury, and help visitors find their way safely. If the light will be on from dusk-to-dawn, use a compact fluorescent bulb (rather than a standard incandescent) to save energy and reduce the number of bulb change outs. Make sure it is rated for outdoor use, or it won't come on during cold temperatures.

The best overall lighting scheme combines HID area lighting mounted high, with motion-sensor fixtures near doors, plus a decorative yard light to illuminate walkways.

Additional information can be found in the publication, "Outdoor Lighting for Safety and Productivity" available from the National Food and Energy Council. The fact-filled guide explains each type of light source, and provides recommendations on the right fixture style and placement. A list of average kilowatt-hour usage and annual operating costs for different types of lighting is provided.

The cost of a single copy is \$4.50 (includes postage). To order a copy, contact the National Food and Energy Council at 1-573-875-7155 or visit [www.nfec.org](http://www.nfec.org).



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# Water — The Miracle Molecule

By **Morrie McLain**  
President, **Tri-Lakes Home Builders Association**

Each molecule of water is made up of three atoms. Two hydrogen atoms bonded to one oxygen atom. That's all water is. Without this three-atom combination, you and I would not be here since two thirds of both our planet and our bodies are composed of it. We often take our fresh, safe water supply for granted, but you and I can help make sure it lasts a long, long time. As a homeowner, here are some things you can do to help:

- Install low-flow toilets, shower heads, and faucets.
- Take shorter showers.
- Fill the sink rather than letting water run while washing hands or shaving.
- Don't use the toilet as a waste basket.
- Repair leaking faucets and running toilets immediately.
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only with a full load.

• Don't run water continuously while washing vegetables and dishes.


- Water lawns in the early morning to avoid evaporation.
- Plant native or drought-tolerant plants.
- Use mulch or ground coverings to reduce evaporation and runoff.
- Use a broom to clear off walkways, patios, and other outdoor areas.

• Use automatic shutoff nozzles on hoses when washing cars or working in the garden instead of letting the hose run continuously.

Water conservation is a good reason to buy a new home. Remember that most new homes use less water because they are equipped with fixtures that would be considered "conservation measures" if they were installed in existing homes. In addition, manufacturers have begun to design appliances with shorter cycles, adjustable water levels, and water recycling features.

These features can reduce water use by as much as 40 percent. Ask your builder what kind of fixtures are in your home.

Chances are, you can request products that can help you save water. And don't forget that when you save water, you will save money since you pay for the water you use and the fuel to heat it.



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# Colorful Murals Serve Up Fantasy And Adventure For Distinctly Personal Rooms

By Lis King

(IHIT) – Murals hand-painted by traveling artists were coveted by our forefathers, but the scenes depicted rarely went beyond hills and harbors, so there's no question that their jaws would drop at the sight of the wall art served up by today's designers.

Here's fun and adventure, recording just about every activity and view we might fantasize about...From sports to science, from folk art to Matisse, from America's heartland to outer space...Even the form of today's murals is different, according to Barbara Lazarow of Blonder Home Accents. We're used to seeing scenes of a specific size, she explains, but thanks to digital technology, murals can now be custom-sized for maximum decorative impact. For additional fun, murals can also be personalized. One Three Pillars Design collection, for example, features a classic car parked under a theater marquee, which can be custom-printed with up to 30 characters on two sides, certainly enough to feature a family's names or special message.

This collection, called "Adventures," also features a series of windows with views to die for. "Such a great idea for a windowless room," remarks Lazarow.

Still another unusual mural depicts a life-size fireplace. "Sure to warm the heart of a room," she adds.

Accent murals that are cut-



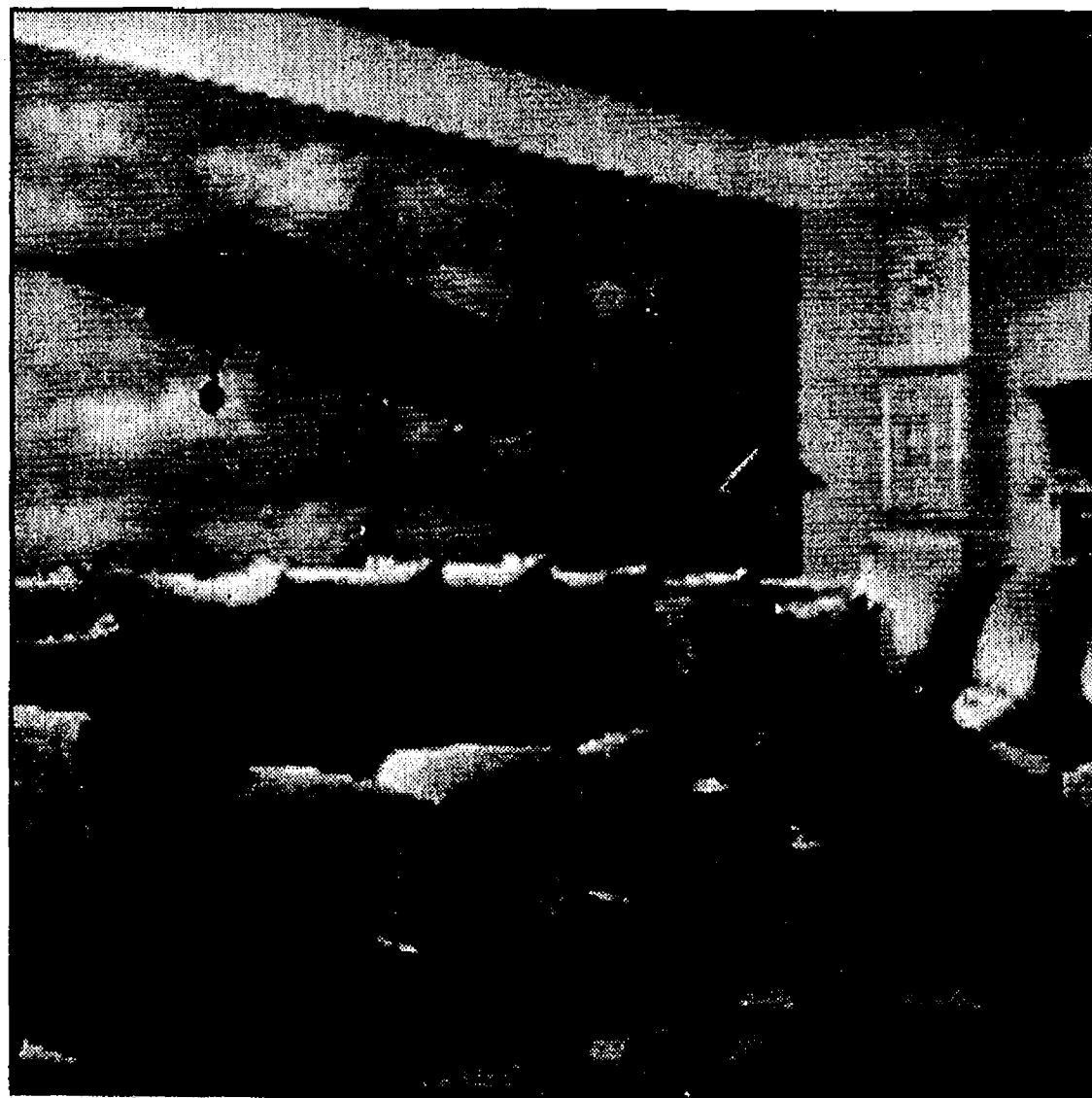
**Batter-Up! – Life-size ball players and other designs from Blonder's "KidZone" collection by Three Pillars Design are wall murals and accent panels that will create plenty of excitement among young fans.**

outs are frequently found in collections for children. The "Kid Zone" collection by Three Pillars Designs, for example, features a series of life-size baseball players that can simply be pasted on the wall, and York's "Kid's World" boasts a large world map.

"There's really no end to the views you can 'adopt' these days," says Lazarow. "A Parisian street, the Stealth fighter, famous

golf courses, vintage trains, cool jazz clubs, village scenes, beaches.... Anything is possible, so there's no longer any excuse for boring rooms."

For more information on murals and accent panels, contact Blonder Home Accents, 1-800-321-4070. Or check the Dealer's Corner on www.blonderhome.com for information on where to purchase these collections.



**Fantasy Walls – The famous Stealth Bomber is a stunning example of the broad range of wall murals and accent panels in Blonder's "Adventures" collection by Three Pillars Design.**

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(IHIT) — Residential screens became an industry in the United States in 1862 when an inventive entrepreneur named George Bedson invented a process that would weave strands of black steel wire into a woven mesh. Bedson formed the Woven Wire Products Company to manufacture steel woven mesh into rolls that could be cut to size for application to windows and doors.

Little did Bedson know that 14 decades later, screens would be made to vanish when they were not needed to provide insect protection and ventilation.

The most recent technological innovation is the introduction of "disappearing" screens — screens that are spring-controlled to roll up into a small container no

wider than the support member of a door or window. Larger openings boast disappearing screens that are motorized to be raised or lowered at the touch of a switch.

For the past 142 years America's screen manufacturers have kept a steady pace of introducing new technology in both screen product design and manufacturing techniques. George Bedson's original concept — develop a product that will prevent insects from intruding while, at the same time, provide homes with ventilation — still remains the driving force behind the research and development programs that propel the members of the Screen Manufacturers Association in their never-ending quest for product improve-

ment.

In recent years, design engineers, working with metallurgists, have made major strides in a stepped-up pace of unique new screen product introductions. Steel mesh, for the most part, has given way to lightweight aluminum and fiberglass. Cumbersome, heavy wood frames for screens have become relics of the past because today's screen frames are made of lightweight aluminum.

The home improvement market is one of the fastest growing segments of the screen industry. As homeowners upgrade their homes, one of the first areas they look at are the windows and doors. New windows, screens and doors make a significant impact on heating and cooling efficiency and also make a major contribution to both the exterior and interior appearance of the home.

Today's new homes are being equipped with screens that are integral components of the window itself, making the old seasonal task of exchanging screens for storm windows another homeowner task of the past.

These innovations have resulted in homeowners screening in larger areas than ever before. Porches and patios are now totally screened in. More recently, garage doors have alternate closures that are large-expanse screens.

The Screen Manufacturers

Association is co-sponsor, along with the National Safety Council, of the Annual National Window Safety Week In 2004, the event will take place April 18-24. For more information on screens, visit the SMA website or the websites of any screen manufacturer listed on the Membership Page of the SMA website. SMA is located at 2850 So. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, FL 33480-6205.



The ultimate convenience comes from motorized screens for large areas such as porches, patios and balconies.

## Energy Advice From The Power Company

(IHIT) — The wise use of energy can help you take control of your home's energy use. This can lead to a lower monthly energy bill, and it can benefit the environment too, according to Edison Electric Institute. For help, contact your electric power company.

Power companies offer free advice, and many have energy-saving programs and assistance. These can include:

- Financial incentives, such as low-interest loans and cash rebates, on energy-efficient lighting, air conditioning/heating, refrigeration, and water heating systems.

- Direct control programs,

where, in exchange for a monthly bill credit, consumers give the electric company the option to cycle large appliances, such as the air conditioner and water heater, on-and-off for brief periods during peak demand times.

- On-line energy audits that enable consumers to analyze their home energy use and get recommended adjustments right from their own computer.

Many electric company websites include detailed, interactive pages about wise energy use and energy efficiency. For a state-by-state listing, visit <http://www.eei.org/energyuse>. Or check out your electric utility company's website to learn more

about the wise use of energy today.

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| Bilt On Demand                  | 6424 Hemlock, Marion, MI 49665                    |
| Bradley's Furniture             | PO 426 Roscommon, MI 48653                        |
| The Building Center             | 7400 E. Houghton Lake, Houghton Lake, MI 48629    |
| Century 21 Prof. Realty         | P.O. Box 519, Houghton Lake, MI 48629             |
| Chemical Bank North             | P.O. Box 686, Grayling, MI 49738                  |
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| Ecoquest                        | 221 N. First St. West Branch, MI 48661            |
| Ecowater Systems of Central MI  | PO 401 Gladwin, MI 48624                          |
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# Landscaping Can Provide Big Return On Investment

(NUI) — According to a Clemson University study, landscaping around your home can provide 100 percent or more return on investment. The Clemson study reports that the initial cost for landscaping is about 10 percent of the home's value, while a quality landscaped yard will provide a 13 percent to 17 percent increase in resale value.

However, a homeowner's ability to ensure this kind of return on investment depends heavily on selecting the right landscape contractor and using quality materials like interlocking concrete pavements or segmental retaining walls. Homeowners should consider several factors when selecting their landscape contractor.

- Determine the scope of the project. Work closely with the contractor to ensure your vision is understood and implemented. You can also ask the contractor to design landscaping. Many landscape contractors have in-house landscape design services.

- Make sure your contractor is properly licensed, bonded and insured for the work proposed. Many regions require special licenses to conduct the earthwork and grading operations necessary for retaining wall construction or to perform the plumbing operations necessary for irrigation and water features. The landscape contractor should also have proper insurance for both liability and worker's compensation and should provide proof upon request.

- Research your landscape contractor. Follow up on all references provided. Make sure the contractor has sufficient experience on projects of similar size and scope. Make sure the contractor has experience with the products being installed. Ask if the contractor has been certified or trained by the product supplier and if the contractor has achieved recognition from a local or national trade association for demonstrating professionalism and quality. Such credentials are provided by the

Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute for paver installation and by the National Concrete Masonry Association for segmental retaining wall installation.

- Seek guarantees from the landscape contractor. Many landscape contractors or nurseries will guarantee plant materials for periods up to one year and will guarantee hardscape installations, like interlocking concrete pavements and segmental retaining walls, for periods up to or exceeding one year. It is also important to find out what is covered under the guarantee. For instance, it may not cover poor performance resulting from misuse or lack of basic maintenance.

Taking these few simple steps ensures that time in your new landscaped yard is spent relaxing and not worrying about your investment. For more information about landscaping, visit [www.ncma.org](http://www.ncma.org).

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## Tips To Cut Summer Energy Costs

(IHIT) — It's a fact. In the summer months, heat from the outside can pour into homes. The heat gain from the sun can put quite a load on a home's air conditioning system. It keeps it running at a high rate ensuring steep summer cooling bills, particularly in older, less energy efficient homes.

There are ways, however, to keep air conditioning bills in check. The CertainTeed Home Institute offers these tips:

- Add metallized polyester film to windows if you don't have energy efficient insulated ones. These films reflect summer heat outside.

- Check your insulation levels. Make sure you have the correct levels of fiber glass insulation in

your attic, crawlspace and basement. If not add more. Remember, as insulation can help keep a home warmer in winter, it can keep it cooler in the summer.

- Install a clock thermostat to set your thermostat ahead automatically at night.

- Plant trees and shrubs. Strategically planted landscaping in your yard can help reduce your energy costs. Deciduous trees with lots of leaves are best planted in front of sunny windows, as they will keep sunlight out of your living area.

- In addition, hardy low-lying evergreens and shrubs planted close to the foundation of a house slow cooled air from escaping during the summer.

For additional information on saving energy in the summer months, write to the CertainTeed Home Institute, P.O. Box 860, Valley Forge, PA 19482, or call 1-800-782-8777 for the free pamphlet "Tips to Head Off High Cooling Bills." Also visit us on the Internet at [www.certainteed.com](http://www.certainteed.com).

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# Build Your Oasis With Peace And Quiet In Mind

(IHIT) – The buzz words with American families today are balance and quality time. And the buzz words when describing American homes today are comfort and quiet.

Combine the two and you've got quality time with your family in a peaceful, private dwelling. Often times this is easier said than done, however.

If you're building a new home and sound control is important to you, check out [www.mysoundchek.com](http://www.mysoundchek.com). The web site is divided into five main areas: The Basics of Sound Control, Sound Control Room by Room, Sound Control Products, a Glossary of Acoustical Terms and Helpful Hints.

In the Basics of Sound Control section, sound and how it is transmitted is defined. Various properties of sound are explained as well as general sound control techniques.

The Sound Control Room by Room section features a spinning three-dimensional home which indicates rooms where sound should be controlled. When the room is clicked on all areas within the particular room that relate to sound control pop up with a

pointing arrow. For instance, in the bedroom areas where sound needs to be controlled that are indicated including the exterior walls, windows, ducts, floor, interior walls, doors and electrical outlets. In the bathroom, the tubs/showers, plumbing, floors, electrical outlets, interior walls and doors pop up. Then, when you click on each arrow, advice pops up for ways to control sound.

In the Sound Control Products section, various products and design systems that can help minimize sound transmission are listed. By clicking on each, you can learn more about their relevance in maximizing sound control. Some examples of the products include insulation, ducts, flooring materials, windows and plumbing, among others.

The Glossary of Acoustical Terms is a list of acoustical and sound-related words and their definitions. Some examples of the words that are defined on the site include acoustics, airborne sound, decibel, hertz (Hz), sound transmission class and frequency, among others.

The last main area on the SoundChek site is a Helpful Hints section.

### Controlling Noise

Materials placed in walls and ceilings of a home can provide a barrier to sound from the outside and from room to room. Some materials, like lead, are excellent sound absorbers but aren't practical for wrapping rooms. Other alternatives exist, but experts say fiber glass insulation is best because it absorbs sound and is relatively inexpensive.

When most people think about insulation, they think about insulating the exterior walls. This is important for controlling sound

from the outside. But ask your builder to insulate the interior walls as well. This will help reduce noise between rooms inside. Ceilings and floors are also vital areas to reduce noise from overhead or below.

For added sound control, ask your builder to insulate your heating and air conditioning ducts. If you have metal ducts, have them lined with fiber glass insulation, or consider a high-efficiency system made from rigid fiber glass duct board.

### Practical Tips

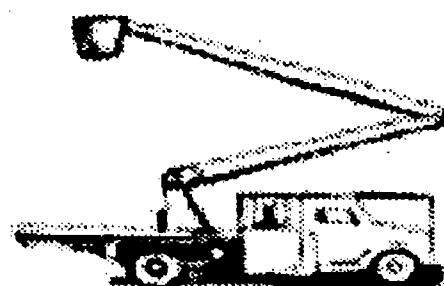
In addition to insulation, here are some additional "sound" steps to discuss with your builder. Ask him to:

- Install thick carpeting and padding throughout your home to reduce impact sound.
- Caulk around windows and use weatherstripping at the bottoms of doors.
- Choose solid wood, not hollow, core interior doors where privacy is demanded.
- Use thick glass, insulating glass and storm windows to help reduce sound transmission through windows.
- Select quiet, high-quality appliances.
- Install telephone hook-ups, doorbells, intercoms or audio built-ins on interior walls.
- Caulk holes made by wiring, which penetrates connecting structures with elastic non-hardening caulk or dry packing.
- Seal openings around ceiling fixtures.

For a free booklet called "Putting a Check on Sound in Your New Home," contact the CertainTeed Home Institute, P.O. Box 860, Valley Forge, PA 19482, or call 1-800-782-8777 or visit us on the web at [www.certainteed.com](http://www.certainteed.com).

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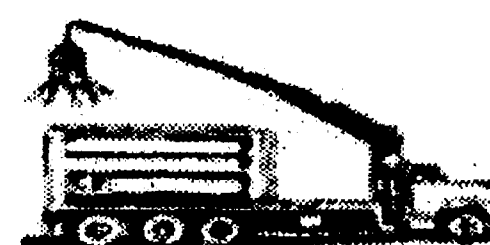
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# Building A Deck May Be Easier Than You Think

(NUI) – Do you wish you could add an extra room to your house, but you don't want to spend the money? Is your backyard plain and boring?

Outdoor amenities like redwood decks, trellises, privacy screens and benches can take the place of an extra room at a fraction of the cost. In addition, a deck increases real estate value and provides a low-maintenance outdoor area that keeps cooling and energy costs down.

When building an addition, such as a redwood deck, the choice of materials is always important. Today, more than ever, families are concerned about the safety of products around the home. Unlike chemically treated woods and petroleum-based products, redwood heartwood's durability is organic and natural.

If you are thinking about

building a redwood deck yourself, you may find deck building easier than you would expect.

First of all, it is important to survey your yard and decide what problems building a deck can solve. Can it level off a sloping or uneven area? Can it turn an unusable side yard into a comfortable outdoor living area? Checking building codes in your area is an important preliminary step.

When working with wood outdoors, remember the type of hardware you use can affect the appearance of your project.

Inferior hardware can cause stains and is unlikely to last as long as the redwood. A variety of joist hangers, patented connectors and deck fasteners are available to help the do-it-yourselfer.

If it is worth the extra cost to use top-quality, hot-dipped gal-

vanized, stainless steel or aluminum hardware.

Other amenities complete the job of making a living center. Redwood planters, benches, tables and furniture can turn a deck into your "outdoor room." You may want to add a spa, privacy screen, outdoor cooking center or shade trellis.

If you are looking for some help and ideas in planning your deck, the California Redwood Association offers two booklets, "Redwood Deck Construction" and "Redwood Landscape Architecture." Send \$2.50 to California Redwood Association, Department DKU-04, 405 Enfronte Drive, Suite 200, Novato, CA 94949.

For more information, visit [www.calredwood.org](http://www.calredwood.org).

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# Don't Undersize Electric Circuits Or Extension Cords

(IHIT) – When selecting the wire size needed for a circuit, or using an extension cord to power a heater, motor or other device, size makes a big difference. If the conductor is undersized, it creates voltage drop that can shorten the life of your equipment, and waste energy.

Branch circuits should be sized to limit voltage drop to 2%, when measured from the electric service panel to the specific appliance or equipment. Voltage drop occurs any time electricity travels through a wire. If the wire size is small or the circuit run is long, the voltage will drop significantly from one end of the wire to the other. Exceeding 2% can cause motors to overheat, and lowers the performance of heating and lighting devices, as shown below.

A 5% Voltage Drop Results In:

- 10% loss of heat in any heating appliance
- 17% loss of light from an incandescent lamp
- 5% increase in current to a motor (causing energy waste)
- 25% increase in motor heat-

ing (causing shortened motor life)

So how do you know the right size wire to use for a long circuit run, or the effect of running a long extension cord to an appliance? The easiest way is to use reference tables that do the calculations for you. Using the length of the circuit run (in feet) and the size of the electric load required by the appliance (in amps) there are numeric tables that provide the minimum size conductor needed to limit voltage drop to 2%. One source is the "Agricultural Wiring Handbook." This book covers topics beyond just farm wiring, because it includes 29 wire selection tables. Both copper and aluminum conductor tables are included, for electric loads from 5 to 400 amps, and circuit runs up to 2,000 feet.

To learn more about sizing circuits, talk with an experienced electrician or major supplier of electrical wiring. For information on the "Agricultural Wiring Handbook," including ordering information, visit the National

Food and Energy Council site at [www.nfec.org](http://www.nfec.org) or call them weekdays at 1-573-875-7155.

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# Add Drama, Beauty, And Safety To Your Home With Outdoor Lighting

(IHIT) – People invest in outdoor lighting for two primary reasons: the first is to accent their home and landscaping for nighttime enjoyment; the second is for safety and security.

Even the most ordinary home can be stunning when outdoor lighting is properly installed. Beyond enhancing the appearance of a home, lighting makes outdoor living areas such as pools, decks, patios, etc., usable at any hour of the day or

night.

Exterior lighting is one of the best ways to increase a home's safety and security. Lights can be used to eliminate dark spots or hiding places outside your home. Illuminating windows and doors will discourage intruders from getting close enough to see in or break in. Burglars typically look for easy, safe targets – homes that they can enter and exit without being seen. A well-lit home prevents that. Also, adequate exterior lighting makes it easy and safe for guests as they come and go.

Tom Fenig, president of Outdoor Lighting Perspectives, a nationwide franchise based in Matthews, N.C. says, "Use professionals and ask them to come give you a complete demonstration. Insist on seeing exactly what your home will look like when the lights are installed before you make the purchase. The best time for that is nighttime."

You can also save time and money by preparing your home for landscape and architectural lighting in the pre-construction stage.

Fenig offers these tips:

- Be sure to place an electrical outlet in all locations where transformers for the lighting system will be needed. At the least, there should be one outlet in the front and one in the rear of your home. The location should be easy to get wiring to, but not easily seen. Don't make it easy for burglars or pranksters to tamper with your system.

- Place a 2" piece of conduit under all concrete where you might want to add lighting. This will make it easy to run wiring to add lighting fixtures at any point in the future. The conduit will also come in handy for other projects, such as wiring for outdoor speakers or irrigation. Places to put conduit include under driveways, patios, walkways, planter boxes, decks, etc.

- Clearly mark the conduit raceways so they are easy to find in the future. One way is to mark them on your plans and keep the plans for future reference. Or make a small mark in the concrete; for example, an unobtrusive notch on either side of the driveway where the conduit is would make it easy to find.

- Have your electrician install all outlets that will be used for landscape lighting on the same breaker in the electric breaker panel, and be sure that breaker is clearly marked as landscape lighting. This will make it easy for you to deal with the situation should the breaker ever trip or if you should ever want to disconnect power to those outlets. The breaker should be at least 15 to 20 amps to accommodate your initial installation and any additions you may want in the future.

Outdoor Lighting Perspectives, Matthews, N.C., installs systems nationwide for increased home safety and security.

For information or to locate a franchise near you, visit [www.outdoorlights.com](http://www.outdoorlights.com).



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# Inside, Outside, All Around The House...

By Carole Stewart

(IHIT) – Spring brings all sorts of surprises to even the most scrupulous of home and yard keepers. Amid emerging buds and bulbs are critters searching safe haven, cinders and snow plow tracks where cinders and tracks ought not be, and bare wood trim peeking out from weathered windows. Its enough to blow the whole home-sweet-home thing, unless the unsuspecting homeowner has gobs of unscheduled time and energy.

As most of people where I come from scarcely have time to mow the lawn – a collection of innovative tips follows – from seasoned survivors of many a spring.

## The Art of Maintenance Moderation

First and foremost among interviewees were these eight home maintenance principals:

1. A well kept home keeps its owners safe and sane. Most modern homes are equipped with door and window fasteners that are designed to provide maximum security. Make it a challenge to breach the security of your home. Keep this hardware in good repair.

2. Structural repairs are expensive and can often be prevented by proactive maintenance: Wind and ice can wreck havoc on new roofing and gutters just as readily as those on seasoned homes.

3. Mobile home owners have a special concern in maintaining the integrity of trailer skirts. Preventing frozen pipes

and unnecessarily high energy bills makes checking worth while, and may even keep out uninvited pets.

4. Electricity, man's greatest invention, or his demise: Depending on safe use and the condition of wiring within the home, homeowners today enjoy the advantage of labor saving, energy efficient and fantastically convenient electric lights, heat and appliances. Electricity requires little maintenance, but keeping close tabs on outlets with worn wires, and guarding against overloaded circuits can save homes and homeowners.

5. Keep home repair journals: New furnaces and plumbing fixtures are subject to an array of problems not dissimilar from older ones. It is a great practice to log in the date, cost and names and telephone numbers of outside repair persons. The information is handy for warranty purposes and to remind the homeowner exactly how long it has been since the furnace filter was replaced or the garage door opener was repaired. One cautionary word to those who are tempted to undertake the job of trimming trees around electric lines. Don't. Leave it for the professionals with proper equipment. Once a limb falls onto the wires it may be too late for caution.

6. Chips and smudges give an aura of untidiness. Do-it-yourself decorators are well advised to maintain a little extra paint and wallpaper for

emergencies. Some older homes have so many coats of paint chips practically fall off at the sound of the vacuum cleaner.

7. Insects, rodents and other indoor/outdoor creatures: Well-fitting screens and garage doors that are kept closed, are a good first step toward combatting change-of-season rodent problems. Swarms of carpenter ants undetected turn trees and timbers into dead wood! Effective treatments are safe, easy to use and readily available at home and garden shops.

8. Daily diligence inside, outside, and all around the house: In the final scheme of things – a leaking faucet, running toilet, or a faulty GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter) caught before the arrival of a mammoth energy bill can be a homeowners saving grace.

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## Three Ways To Replace Window And Door Screens

(IHIT) – The burgeoning housing market has given rise to an unprecedented increase in the number of residential screens that homeowners are in the process of replacing, according to Frank S. Fitzgerald, Executive Vice President of the Screen Manufacturers Association.

"The age-old seasonal ritual and unwelcome task of taking down storm windows and putting up screens is rapidly becoming something our grandparents did, and many of our children will never do," said Fitzgerald.

### Combination Storm Windows and Screens

Fitzgerald said that homeowners are replacing their screens to take advantage of the many conveniences that today's screen products offer. Most home owners are opting to replace old storm windows and separate screens with combination storm windows and screens. These new combination units are lighter to handle and eliminate the need

for separate screens and storm windows. With just a flip of the screen element, screens are quickly put into place from the interior of the house. With these new products it is no longer necessary get screens and storm windows out of storage, wash them and then get the ladder out to complete this arduous fall and spring task.

### Replacement Individual Screens

The second option for homeowners is to replace their old, heavy wood-framed screens with ultra light weight screens that are available in a wide range of screening material, including aluminum and fiberglass mesh. These long-lasting replacement screens are available in hardware stores, large home supply outlets and local screen shops. A large inventory of these screens in standard sizes are carried by most retailers.

### Do-It-Yourself Screen Replacement and Repair

The third way to replace win-

dow screens is reserved for the Do-It-Yourselfer. The DIY market is served by local screen shops and many mass merchandisers who provide consumers with a wide variety of mesh screen products to repair damaged screens. These screening materials enable consumers to replace sections of damaged screens within existing frames and are available in a variety of weights and colors.

Many of these stores provide helpful hints for the do-it-yourselfer in and can also provide the necessary tools to complete the job.

The Screen Manufacturers Association is a co-sponsor of the Annual National Window Safety Week along with the National Safety Council. For more information on screens, visit the SMA website at or any manufacturer listed on the Membership Pages of the SMA website. SMA is located at 2850 So. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, FL.

## Ten Energy-Saving Ideas

(IHIT) – Using energy wisely can reduce consumption and save money on utility bills, according to the American Gas Association. Here are some tips:

- Seal leaks around doors, windows, pipes and ducts using weather-stripping or caulking.
- Set thermostat between 65

and 70 degrees in the winter, and reduce by another 5 degrees while sleeping. A programmable thermostat can help you achieve energy savings without sacrificing much comfort by programming temperature changes to occur while you're sleeping or out of the house – no more running across icy-cold floors to get to the thermostat when you get up in the morning.

- Lower water heater temperatures to 120 degrees, thus providing hot water while lowering the risk of scalding. Operate washing machine on cold water settings unless load is heavily soiled.

- Change filters or clean the filters in heating and cooling units twice a year. Close vents and doors in unused rooms and insulate ducts and pipes where they travel through unheated spaces.

- Keep sunlight out in the hot months and let it in during winter months by using drapes, shutters, awnings, shade trees, glass with reflective film or solar screens.

- Check to see if attic and basement (or crawl space) have the

recommended levels of insulation.

- Consider installing a natural gas fireplace insert in your wood burning fireplace. This can save on the cost of purchasing wood and reduce air pollution from burning the wood as well.

- Consider storm or thermal windows and doors or double-paned glass. A less-expensive alternative is plastic sheeting, which can be temporarily fastened over doors and windows to keep heat and air conditioning in.

- Be sure that dishwashers, washing machines and dryers are fully loaded before running.

When buying new appliances, compare energy efficiency ratings and annual operating costs. A slightly higher cost to purchase a high-efficiency appliance could pay itself back in a very short time through energy savings and lower utility bills.

Many natural gas utilities offer assistance and special programs designed to help consumers reduce their energy bills. Contact your local gas utility for more information.

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# Saving The Planet Around Your Own Home

By Morrie McLain  
President, Tri-Lakes Home  
Builders Association

Think Global, Act Local is one of the leading environmental messages of the 1990s. One of the most localized ways to save the planet is to use energy and natural resources in your home wisely. Here is a list of simple, everyday activities that you can do in the home to help make our earth a healthier and happier place.

• When buying a new home, seek out models built using voluntary energy efficiency programs. These homes feature state-of-the-art elements that protect the environment, conserve energy, and in some cases, guarantee home buyers a reduced utility bill or utility rebates. Some home builders and lenders even offer energy efficiency mortgages that quali-

fy home buyers for a 15 to 20 percent larger mortgage.

• Keep the refrigerator door shut. Only open it to take food in and out. Close the door while you're filling ice cube trays and while you're unpacking your groceries.

• Save energy in the bathroom. Turn off the water when you aren't using it. Take short showers instead of baths. Brush your teeth with the water off.

• Lower the heat. By turning the heat down just a few degrees, Americans could save more than 500,000 barrels of oil a day. If you're chilly, put on a sweater instead of turning up the heat.

• Turn the air conditioning thermostat up or off. Save valuable energy by keeping AC above 75 degrees in your house.

• Fix leaky pipes and faucets. One tiny leak can waste up to

50 gallons of water a day. Start a tree-planting program. Trees provide energy-conserving shade, help clean our air and water, and provide habitat for wildlife.

• Reuse glass containers, paper bags, gift boxes, plastic bags, cloth diapers, and rechargeable batteries.

• Recycle newspapers, aluminum cans, one and two coded plastics, glass, and toys.

• Recycling doesn't just help our planet, it helps make the earth a prettier and healthier place by saving trees. You can help by taking your used books to the library, magazines and comic books to a hospital, and your bundled newspapers to a recycling center. If each of us recycled just one newspaper a week, we could save 25 billion trees every year.

## How To Select A Standby Generator

(IHIT) – If you are considering a backup generator purchase, there are important sizing and code requirements that you need to know to ensure a safe and adequate standby generator installation. Sizing the generator takes into account the total kilowatt (kW) requirements of the electrical equipment to be served. Undersizing can leave you frustrated while oversizing is just a waste of money. Pay particular attention to anything with an electric motor. Starting a motor requires three to seven times the current used during normal operation. Allowing for this startup or inrush of current when sizing the generator is crucial.

Electrical connections to the wiring system of the home, farm, or business require a double-throw transfer switch. This is not a do-it-yourself project! Involve an experienced electrical contrac-

tor to ensure a safe, reliable installation that meets all local and national code requirements. Another safety consideration is where the generator is placed. Unless you vent the generator fumes to the outside, never locate it inside a building, garage or basement.

A new publication is now available that contains a wealth of information about standby generators. Called "Sizing and Selecting Your Standby Generator," this 20-page illustrated guide helps homeowners, farmers and small business owners understand a correctly sized and safely installed standby generation system. It explains the various types of generators available, such as engine or tractor driven, portable or permanently anchored units. Three examples are provided to illustrate proper matching of the electrical capaci-

ty to the particular load requirements. One section is devoted to the need for a double-throw transfer switch. Also the names, locations, and phone numbers of 32 major generator suppliers are included to assist readers with the selection process.

To order this booklet, call the National Food and Energy Council (NFEC) at 1-573-875-7155 or fax 1-573-449-5322, mentioning "Sizing and Selecting Your Standby Generator." The price is \$9.75 (includes shipping and handling). Learn more about this, and other electrical topics at [www.nfec.org](http://www.nfec.org).

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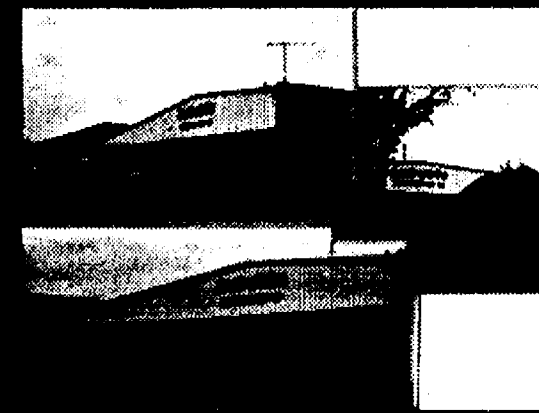
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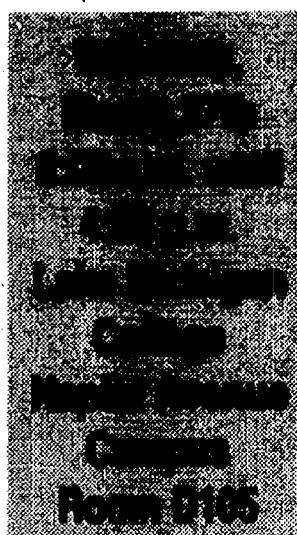
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# Wildfires Cause Concern In Communities

(NUI) – Naturally occurring wildfires can help sustain and maintain healthy forests. However, to residents, they can be devastating.

In 2002, extreme drought conditions fueled the largest forest fires in Colorado, Arizona and Oregon in the last century.

The wildfires claimed more than 7 million acres of land and more than 2,300 structures in that year alone. Early estimates from 2003's Southern California wildfires have indicated that more than 800,000 acres were burned and 3,400 homes were destroyed.

As a direct result of a devastating fire, Pima County in Arizona enacted emergency legislation last summer to adopt the International Urban-Wildland Interface Code, or IUWIC, published by the International Code Council. The code provides a comprehensive approach to protecting

structures from wildfires and preventing fires within buildings from spreading into full-blown wildfires.

According to the National Concrete Masonry Association, concrete masonry provides a distinct advantage to structures in the urban-wildland interface because it is inherently non-combustible. The IUWIC requires exterior walls of buildings that are subject to extreme fire hazard to be constructed of one-hour fire resistive construction or an approved noncombustible material. Most concrete masonry walls easily exceed a one-hour rating.

The IUWIC building requirements work. Mark Kluver, regional codes manager for Portland Cement Association, surveyed damage from three of the largest fire areas in Southern California and found that most of the recently built dwellings located on the explosive fire perimeter were still standing.

Kluver found that these homes typically included the one-hour-rated noncombustible exterior walls.

"I found strong evidence that local jurisdictions and homeowners took major corrective action following the fires that raced through Southern California 10 years ago. If fires of the magnitude that hit last year had occurred back then, several times more dwellings may have been lost," Kluver said. As the nation's wildland areas continue to be developed, growing numbers of homeowners will face the potential devastation of wildfires. The National Concrete Masonry Association says building with concrete masonry provides them proven fire protection and security for their lives and their homes.

For more information, visit [www.ncma.org](http://www.ncma.org).

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